

purchase of oyster shells to be planted or sown in the waters of the Chesapeake bay during the months of May and June, in such place as the Commander may determine, for the purpose of catching spat and experimenting in the propagation of oysters, and that the Commander shall make a return of his work and an itemized account of his expenditure of said amount to the Comptroller, and shall give notice of the location of the grounds so sown by him, in at least three newspapers published in Baltimore city, for at least four weeks before the opening of the oyster season.

Purchase of
oyster shells.

SEC 2. *And be it enacted*, That the grounds so sown and advertised, shall be closed as long as he shall deem proper by the Commander of the Oyster Police Force, designating the same by buoys and other visible marks and bounds, and by giving notice of said closing in such newspaper or newspapers as he may deem proper, and warning all persons against taking oysters thereon; and until the said Commander shall remove said buoys and other visible marks and bounds, and give notice of the opening thereof, it shall be unlawful for any one to take or catch oysters on said grounds; any one found guilty of taking or catching oysters on said grounds, contrary to the provisions of this act, shall be deemed guilty of a felony, and on conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned in the Penitentiary for not less than three months and not more than one year, at the discretion of the Court trying the same; or in default of the arrest of the party or parties engaged in taking said oysters unlawfully, the boat or vessel shall be forfeited, and the Court may order the boat or vessel so used in taking oysters on said grounds unlawfully, to be sold on complaint and proof of a violation of the law being made before said Court, and the proceeds, after paying the expenses of arrest and sale, shall be paid to the Comptroller to the credit of the Oyster Fund.

Marks.

Penalty.