

CHAP. 711

May call for
assistance.

Section 95. The said board shall be authorized to call to their assistance the county surveyor of any county whenever in their judgment his assistance is necessary, and shall pay him for his services such compensation as is authorized by law for his services in other proceedings.

Survey taken
of ground for
soft shell or
shedder
crabs.

Section 96. The Board of Shell Commissioners shall cause an accurate survey of and delineation upon the maps and charts aforesaid of all bottoms of the tributaries of the Chesapeake bay where grass grows and it is profitable to scrape for soft shell or shedder crabs, and shall have such bottoms properly designated by permanent objects on the shore, as provided hereinbefore for natural oyster beds, bars and rocks, which said crabbing sections shall be exempt from leasing for oyster culture.

Steamer of
State fishery
force to be
kept in
commission.

Section 97. One of the steamers of the State fishery force shall be kept in commission under the command of the deputy commander, and subject to the control and direction of the commissioners from the first day of April in each year until the first day of October following, to assist the board in the performance of the duties imposed upon it by this Act, and the deputy commander in each of the several districts of this State shall also be subject to the control and direction of the said commissioners during the closed season for taking and catching oysters with rakes and tongs during the time the said commissioners shall be engaged in the respective districts in locating natural oyster beds, bars and rocks, and shall give the said commissioners every assistance in their power.

Tracts of land
beneath the
waters of
this State to
be leased,
etc.

Section 98. After the survey provided for herein shall have been completed, it shall be the duty of the Board of Shell Fish Commissioners to lease, in the name of the State of Maryland, tracts or parcels of land beneath the waters of this State, whether within the limits of the counties or elsewhere, in the area to be opened for oyster culture, according to the provisions of this Act; provided, that no tract so leased, if situated within the territorial limits of any county in this State, shall contain less than one acre of land, and if situated in any other place, no tract so leased shall contain less than five acres. It shall be the duty of said commissioners to require that the tracts so leased shall be as nearly rectangular as is convenient. It shall be the duty of the said commissioners to demand from each lessee payment of