

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That new sections be and the same are hereby added to Article 20 of the Code of Public Local Laws, title "Somerset County," sub-title "Oysters," to be designated sections 196 A, 196 B, 196 C, and that section 46 of Article 72, title "Oysters," as repealed and re enacted with amendments in chapter 380 of the Acts of 1894, be and the same is hereby repealed, in so far as the provisions of said section are in conflict or inconsistent with the new sections aforesaid, which said new sections shall be as follows :

Repeal

196 A. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons, or body corporate, to survey, locate, appropriate, hold or attempt to hold any oyster beds, bars or bottoms ; or bottoms suitable for the catching of crabs, within the limits of Somerset county.

Unlawful to survey, etc.

196 B. Any such oyster beds, bars or bottoms, mentioned in the above section, shall be construed to mean those beds, bars or bottoms where oysters have grown or do grow in sufficient quantities to be profitable to persons taking oysters for a livelihood with scrapes, dredges or tongs ; and bottoms suitable for the catching of crabs mentioned in the above section, shall be construed to mean those bottoms where crabs have been caught or are caught in sufficient quantities to be profitable to persons catching crabs for a livelihood.

Construction of above section.

196 C. Any person or persons or body corporate violating the provisions of the above sections shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction before a justice of the peace or the Circuit Court, shall be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than fifty dollars (\$50) nor more than two hundred dollars (\$200) for each and every offense and stand committed to the county jail for sixty days, or until fine and cost are paid ; and in respect to bottoms located before the passage of this Act, whenever twelve citizens of Somerset county appear before any justice of the peace in and for the said county and make oath that any person or persons or body corporate holds, or are attempting to hold in possession, any such oyster beds, bars or bottoms suitable for the catching of crabs contrary to the provisions of the above sections, it shall be the duty of the said justice of the peace to notify in person or by writing said person or persons or body corporate that after ninety days from the date of said notice they shall be deemed guilty of a violation of the provisions of the above sections, unless they shall have in the meantime vacated the aforesaid bottoms and surrendered the same to the public use. And the provisions of this Act shall be construed liberally, to secure the purpose thereof.

Penalty.