

bottom ; and in construing what is a natural oyster bed, bar or bottom, it shall be construed to mean those beds, bars or bottom where oysters have grown or do grow in sufficient quantities to be profitable to persons taking oysters for a livelihood with tongs ; and any person who shall heretofore have had surveyed and located a five-acre oyster lot under the provisions of section 46 of Article 72 of the Code of Public General Laws, title "Oysters" shall be permitted to remove such oysters planted or bedded thereon on or before the first day of April, 1899. In case any person who shall heretofore under the provisions of said section 46 of Article 72 of the Code of Public General Laws have located any five-acre lot of oyster bottom, shall fail to remove such oysters which they shall have bedded or planted upon such five-acre lots before the first day of April, 1899, the said lots so heretofore located are hereby declared vacated, and it shall be lawful for any citizens of St. Mary's county, who has a license to take or catch oysters with tongs, to enter upon and take oysters from such lots.

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demeanor.

96 B. Any person or persons, or body corporate, violating the provisions of the above section 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 nor more than two hundred dollars 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 after the passage of this Act whenever twelve citizens of St. Mary's county appear before a 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 oysters contrary to the provisions of the above section, 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.

Effective.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That this Act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 9, 1898.