

OBSTRUCTION TO PASSAGE OF FISH.

Sec. 12. It shall be unlawful to place any net or other obstruction at the mouth of any creek, cove or inlet so as to impound any fish and prevent them from having free passage to and from such waters; or to obstruct any stream above where the tide ebbs and flows so that the fish shall not have free access up and down the stream, except where dams are erected and fish ladders maintained under the provisions of this Article.

FISH LADDERS.

Sec. 13. Every owner of a dam or dams upon any of the waters of the State is hereby required to make and keep in repair, or cause to be made and kept in repair, and placed upon said dam or dams at least one fish ladder of such a character as to enable fish to have a free course up and down said waters at all times. But in lieu of requiring the erection of such fish ladder or ladders pursuant to the above provisions and in lieu of requiring the construction and maintenance of fish ways or fish ladders pursuant to the provisions contained in any charter heretofore granted to any corporation by any special or general laws of this State, and in lieu of all and singular the liability imposed thereby or consequent therefrom, in or upon any dam where the same is not deemed by the Conservation Commissioner of Maryland to be practical or advisable for the ascending or descending of fish, or to permit the passage of fish from the waters below to the waters above any such dams, the said Conservation Commission is empowered to enter into an agreement with the owner, lessee or operator of such dam to pay to the Conservation Department of Maryland annually, or at other stated periods a sum of money which shall be not less than four and one-half per centum ($4\frac{1}{2}\%$) per annum upon the estimated cost of the erection of such fish ladder or ladders, except in such cases where the amount so calculated would be equal to or exceed the sum of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per annum, then the annual payment shall in all such cases be four thousand dollars (\$4,000) per annum to be expended by the said Department for the purpose of stocking with food fish the waters of the pool above and of the stream below said dam, and for the purpose of propagating, rearing and distributing the fish actually placed in said waters, and the acquisition of the necessary facilities therefor. Any money received by the Conservation Department pursuant to such an agreement shall