

NO. 12.

A Joint Resolution of the General Assembly of Maryland authorizing the Conservation Commissioner of Maryland to confer with the Commissioner of Fisheries of Virginia and other representatives from that State as to the depletion of the oyster bars of Potomac River, and to make such recommendations as the two States may agree upon in such conference for the purpose of rehabilitating said oyster bars.

WHEREAS, The Potomac River is being used in common by the citizens of Maryland and Virginia for the taking of fisheries under the Compact of 1785 between the two States, and said river being the largest and no doubt the most valuable tributary of the Chesapeake Bay for seafood has been one of the main sources of supply for the oyster output of the States of Maryland and Virginia and has furnished Maryland with about twenty-five per cent. of the oyster supply from the dredging bars of the State, has, in recent years, declined in production, which has caused the fishery departments of both States much concern; and,

WHEREAS, The Commissioner of Fisheries of Virginia and the Conservation Commissioner of Maryland, with other State officials, held meetings in Virginia and Maryland during the year 1928 to consider the best means for rehabilitation work and to save the oyster interests of the Potomac, and through request of the State officials, the United States Bureau of Fisheries assigned a survey party in November, 1928, to make a survey of the Potomac to determine the extent of the depletion: and,

WHEREAS, The report made by the Bureau of Fisheries, which was forwarded to the Conservation Commissioner of Maryland by the Honorable Henry O'Malley, Commissioner of the Bureau, shows an almost complete depletion of the main oyster bars of Potomac River, and that the Bureau recommends extensive oyster and shell planting, in order to make the oyster bars once more commercially productive; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the State of Maryland, by its Governor, shall commission the Conservation Commissioner of Maryland to confer further with