

Any person who may desire to plant or cultivate oysters on said area may apply to the Conservation Department for a lease, not exceeding fifty acres to any one person.

At the time of filing the application the applicant shall stake out the ground applied for and designate same by four suitable stakes or markers, one of which shall be placed on each corner of said lot, and shall plainly mark his name on the two outer stakes. Said stakes when properly placed, shall designate the lot applied for and give the applicant prior rights to said ground until the surveyor of the Department shall have an opportunity to survey same in order to get the proper boundaries. After said ground has been so surveyed, the stakes or buoys must be kept up as is required in the case of other leased ground in the State.

All applications shall be given priority in the order in which they are received, except that for a period of thirty days after this Act becomes effective, priority rights shall extend to any bona fide owner or occupant of a planted area in any of these waters who is able to prove satisfactorily to the Conservation Commissioner that such ownership, occupancy or right of claim was vested in him prior to March 15, 1931.

After said thirty days have elapsed, any resident of Worcester County shall have prior right over all other applicants for a period of thirty days.

154C. After the application has been advertised for four successive weeks in one of the newspapers of Worcester County and if no protests are sustained by the Conservation Commissioner and after the payment of \$5.00 for application fee, \$5.00 for advertising fee, \$5.00 for survey fee, and \$2.50 for the recording of the lease, and \$1.00 per acre for the first year's rent, all in advance, it shall be the duty of the Conservation Commissioner to cause same to be surveyed and a lease issued.

The term of said lease shall be twenty years and the price not less than \$1.00 per year per acre.

At the expiration of said lease, the lessee shall be considered as having prior right and shall be given first consideration in making application for a new lease.

154D. A lessee is privileged to cultivate or remove oysters so planted on his leased area in any manner that he deems proper provided he has complied with the law providing for