

eries by tongers or dredgers, as the case may be, at the place where such oysters are to be no farther shipped in bulk in vessels; provided, however, no such special tax shall be imposed upon oysters caught in the areas unless the Department of Tidewater Fisheries shall have planted shells, oysters, or other cultch as herein provided.

(g) *Production of Seed Oysters by the State.* The Department of Tidewater Fisheries is authorized to select and reserve for its own use for the propagation of seed oysters any portion or portions now closed because of pollution, and in addition thereto, any portion or portions of Holland Straights in the waters of Dorchester and Somerset Counties.

(h) *State Oyster Planting.* The Department of Tidewater Fisheries is authorized to transplant oysters, shells or other cultch from one closed area to another, to transplant or otherwise utilize within the State such seed oysters as may be produced upon shells or other cultch planted by said Department, and to transplant or utilize any other seed oysters which may accumulate on areas where such seed oysters are not likely to develop into desirable marketable oysters.

## 12. PRIVATE OYSTER CULTURE

(a) *Authorizing Lease of Oyster Grounds.* The Department of Tidewater Fisheries is hereby authorized to lease, in the name of the State of Maryland, tracts or parcels of land to be used for protecting, sowing, bedding or cultivating oysters or other shell fish beneath the waters of this State, subject to the provisions, limitations and restrictions hereinafter set forth.

(b) *Areas Not Leasable.* No lease shall be granted for any of the following submerged areas of this State, nor shall any person acquire by lease, assignment, appropriation, or otherwise any of these areas: any area beneath any creek, cove, bay, or inlet less than one hundred yards wide at its mouth at mean low water; any natural oyster bar as defined in this Article; any area within fifty yards of any natural oyster bar in any county; any area within two hundred yards of any natural oyster bar in the Chesapeake Bay; any crab bed or clam bed as defined by the charts or amended charts of the Oyster Survey of 1906 to 1912 on file in the offices of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries. Any lease granted in violation of the provisions of this sub-section shall be null and void and the land described in such lease shall revert to the State as though no lease had been made.

(c) *Provisions for Re-surveys of State Waters.* The Department of Tidewater Fisheries may, at any time hereafter, re-