

fall short of the minimum area or exceed the maximum area herein specified as follows:

Chesapeake Bay	5 acres to 500 acres
Tangier Sound	1 acre to 100 acres
Worcester County	1 acre to 50 acres
All other Counties	1 acre to 30 acres

(h) *Application for Lease.* Any person wishing to lease submerged lands of this State, in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall apply to the Department of Tidewater Fisheries for a blank application form, and said form shall be executed by the applicant to show his place of residence, the estimated area of the submerged land for which a lease is sought and a description in detail of the location of said land.

(i) *Application Fees and Advertisement.* Upon receipt of application and an application fee of Five Dollars (\$5.00), the Department of Tidewater Fisheries shall proceed to advertise the application once a week for four successive weeks in a newspaper published in the county in which or nearest to which the area applied for is located; said advertisement to describe the location of the area applied for and to give the name and residence of the applicant; and said Department shall have no authority to issue any lease without such advertisement. The application fee shall remain with the Department until final disposition of the application, and, whenever for any reason, an applicant is not granted a lease said application fee shall be returned to the applicant.

(j) *Protest Against Lease.* Any three or more residents of this State may, within the period of thirty days after the last insertion of said advertisement, file a protest in writing against such application in the Circuit Court of the county in which, or nearest to which, the area applied for is located, and the Clerk of said Court shall thereupon docket a suit at law in which the protestants are the plaintiffs and the Department of Tidewater Fisheries is the defendant. The Court, or any Judge thereof, shall thereupon pass an Order directing summons to issue for the defendant, to be served in the same manner as summons in action at law, and returned by some day to be named in said Order. Said Court or Judge shall also furnish the defendant with a copy of the petition and the defendant shall answer said petition within fifteen days after the return day to which it is summoned, unless the Court, for good cause, has extended time for answering it. After filing of said answer, or in default of answer within the time fixed, the Court shall proceed promptly to hear all evidence adduced by the parties, or either of them, and shall decide whether the area described in said petition is or is not a natural bar, and judgment shall