

(d) *The Department is authorized to operate, sell, buy, lease, exchange, rent, or repair such vehicles, vessels, boats, nets and other equipment as may be necessary for its work, and to provide such arms, ammunition, and equipment as may be required for vehicles, vessels, boats owned by it or owned by the State of Maryland and operated by it, subject to the provisions of Article 15A of this Code, title "Budget and Procurement".*

9. (a) *The Commission shall appoint, with the approval of the Governor, a competent person as Director of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries, who shall be the administrative head of the Department and who shall personally direct its operations and activities. The Director shall devote his full time to the work of the Department and shall receive such salary as may be provided in the budget. The Director shall not hold office under or be subject to the provisions of Article 64A of this Code, title "Merit System", but he shall hold office at the pleasure of the Commission. The Director shall from time to time at the request of the Governor or as may be necessary, report to the Governor on the functions and operations of the Department. Wherever reference is made in this article or elsewhere in the laws of this State to the Chairman of the Commission on Tidewater Fisheries, it shall hereafter mean the Director of the Department of Tidewater Fisheries.*

(b) *The Director may appoint a secretary, Commander of the Fishery Force, hydrographic engineer, auditor, chief clerk, chief inspector and such other deputy commanders, clerks, inspectors and employees as may be necessary to carry out the duties of the Department, in such numbers as may be provided in the budget. All appointments shall be made pursuant to the provisions of Article 64A of this Code, title "Merit System". Insofar as the provisions of said Article 64A provide for disciplinary or dismissal proceedings against employees to be brought by the appointing authority, the Director shall be the appointing authority. The employees shall be under the supervision and control of the Director and shall perform such duties as he may prescribe, with the approval of the Commission. Employees of the Commission of Tidewater Fisheries having a merit system status on June 1, 1959, shall be retained in their respective positions with the Department, except that the Director may abolish any position which he considers unnecessary and may change the duties of any position with restriction by the provisions of said Article 64A of the Code or any other law. The Department may require any employee who handles funds to furnish bond in such amount as the Director may determine.*

(c) *The Commander of the Fishery Force, deputy commanders, inspectors and other employees who may be assigned to law enforcement duties shall have all of the powers conferred upon police officers or constables of this State, and such powers may be exercised anywhere within the territorial limits of this State.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or any other application of this Act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are hereby declared to be severable.*