

land (1961 Supplement), title "Natural Resources," sub-title "Oysters and Clams," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

707A. [The Commission of Tidewater Fisheries shall conduct, with the cooperation of the Department of Research and Education, a complete quantitative shellfish population survey in Talbot County, upon request of the sea food committee of Talbot County (of which George T. Harrison is present chairman). After such survey, a map shall be prepared showing all productive oyster bottom, all productive clam bottom, and all bottom that does not classify as either, with the location and bounds of such areas. Bottoms found to be productive of oysters or clams shall be designated as natural oyster bars or natural clam bars, respectively, provided that at the time of the resurvey there are oysters or clams in sufficient quantities in such beds or bars to enable watermen to use such bars or beds for a livelihood; provided further that any bottom that may be determined to be neither oyster nor clamming bottom shall not be leased to any individual or corporation for the two years following the effective date of this section. Within ninety (90) days after the survey of the county waters is completed, a copy of amended charts or new charts shall be deposited in the record office of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission and another copy with the clerk of the Circuit Court of Talbot County. No existing lease shall be invalidated in whole or in part by facts determined as a result of such survey or resurvey unless the lessee shall forfeit his lease voluntarily or by nonpayment of rental or other fees.]

(a) The Department of Tidewater Fisheries and the Natural Resources Institute shall conduct a quantitative shellfish population survey of the water areas in Talbot County, upon the petition of ten (10) licensed Talbot County clam dredgers or ten (10) licensed Talbot County oystermen, and with the approval of the oystermen's committee for Talbot County provided for under Section 707(j) herein. The petition shall be in writing, contain notarized signatures, and designate with reasonable certainty the area or bottom to be resurveyed. All submerged bottom determined, after such survey, to contain at least four or more oysters per square yard within the bounds of any area of not less than one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of an acre shall be designated a commercially productive oyster area and shall be allocated and reserved for the production of oysters, and all such areas containing less than four oysters per square yard within the bounds of any area of not less than one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of an acre shall be designated a commercially productive soft clam area, and shall be allocated and reserved for the production of soft clams.

(b) The Department shall thereafter amend its charts or prepare new charts of Talbot County and shall cause to be marked or defined as accurately as possible thereon the correct location and bounds of such commercially productive oyster areas and commercially productive clam areas then existing in the area surveyed. Within sixty (60) days after the survey a copy of the amended charts or new charts shall be deposited with the Department and another copy sent to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Talbot County. No existing oyster lease shall be invalidated either in