

## CHAPTER 813

(House Bill 142)

AN ACT to add new Section 707A to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Natural Resources", sub-title "Oysters and Clams", to follow immediately after Section 707 thereof, to provide for a shellfish population survey of submerged bottoms in Talbot County, the designation of commercially productive oyster and clam areas in such waters and on certain charts and preserving existing leases in such waters.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 707A be and it is hereby added to Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Natural Resources", sub-title, "Oysters and Clams", to follow immediately after Section 707 thereof and to read as follows:

707A.

*The Commission of Tidewater Fisheries and the Department of Research and Education shall conduct a quantitative shellfish population survey in Talbot County, upon the petition of ten (10) licensed Talbot County clam dredgers or ten (10) licensed Talbot County Oystermen, which said petition shall be in writing, contain notarized signatures, and designate with reasonable certainty the area or bottom to be re-surveyed. 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 (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 (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.*

*The Commission of Tidewater Fisheries 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 area then existing in the area surveyed. Within sixty (60) days after such survey, a copy of such amended charts or new charts shall be deposited with the Commission of Tidewater Fisheries and another copy sent to the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Easton, Maryland. No existing lease shall be invalidated either in whole or in part by facts determined in any such survey or re-survey unless the lessee shall forfeit his lease voluntarily, or by non-payment of rental or other fees.*

THE COMMISSION OF TIDEWATER FISHERIES SHALL CONDUCT, WITH THE COOPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, A COMPLETE QUANTITA-

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*

[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.

CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.