

the Department of Tidewater Fisheries in charge of the area showing the date, the quantity of oysters removed from the reserved area and the taxes due on such oysters.】

【(g) 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.】

【(g-1) (d) The Department of 【Tidewater Fisheries】 *Chesapeake Bay Affairs* is authorized to select and reserve for its own use areas within the waters of this State for the propagation of seed oysters, the number, size and location of such areas to be determined from time to time by the Department according to the need therefor 【.】 , *provided, however, that not more than two per cent of the natural oyster bars of the State, or of any county, shall be designated as seed areas, and provided further, that all seed oysters produced in such areas shall be planted on the natural oyster bars of this State.* NOT LESS THAN FIFTY PER CENT OF THE SEED OYSTERS REMOVED IN ANY YEAR FROM ANY SEED AREA ESTABLISHED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUB-SECTION SHALL BE PLANTED ON THE NATURAL OYSTER BARS OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THAT SEED AREA IS LOCATED. 【Before reserving an area for such purposes, the Department and the local committees acting in their capacity as pro tempore, ex officio members of the Department as hereafter set forth shall first hold a public hearing in Annapolis if such area is to be located in the Chesapeake Bay or if such area is to be located in county waters, in the county seat of the particular county in whose waters the area is to be located. The time, place and purpose of such hearing as well as the intended size and location of the area to be reserved shall be advertised twice a week during the two weeks preceding the date of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, if the area is to be located within the waters of any county, or in a newspaper of general circulation in the State, if the area is to be located in the Chesapeake Bay. The members of the general public shall be permitted at such hearing to express their views with respect to the necessity for the area to be established and the desirability of the intended size or location thereof. The hearing shall be held before, and the final determination made by, a committee of ten persons consisting of the five members of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission, five members of the local committee as set forth in Section 707 (j) hereof, when the area under consideration is located in county waters, which said local committee shall become ex-officio members of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission, pro tempore, for the purpose of such decision and shall have all of the rights, privileges and authority of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission in relation to the matters as above set forth in this section relating to the area under consideration, including the right to vote one vote for each of the members of the local committee. Each of the five members of the Tidewater Fisheries Commission shall have one vote. A majority of the ten votes cast as aforesaid shall be necessary to carry any measure under consideration as herein set forth. The Department shall keep minutes of the hearings and shall file in its office as a public record a statement setting forth its decision and the reasons therefor. If the decision of the Department is to reserve