

and 1966 Supplement), title "Natural Resources", subtitle "Oysters and Clams", authorizing the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs to sell a specified number of seed oysters to private planters under certain conditions.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 707 (d) of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition and 1966 Supplement), title "Natural Resources", subtitle "Oysters and Clams", be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

707.

(d) The Department of 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 percent of the natural oyster bars of the State, or of any county, shall be designated as seed areas, and provided further, that ~~all~~ of the seed oysters produced in such areas *annually the first million bushels* shall be planted on the natural oyster bars of this State. *Not to exceed fifty percent of the seed oysters produced annually in such areas in excess of one million bushels may be sold by the State to Maryland citizens who hold valid leases under the provisions of Section 708 of this Article, at fair market prices* NOT LESS THAN THE PREVAILING PRICE OF SEED OYSTERS OF SIMILAR QUALITY IN NEARBY STATES *as determined by the Board of Public Works of Maryland and under such conditions of sale as may be prescribed by the Department of Chesapeake Bay Affairs. The proceeds from such sales shall be credited by the Comptroller to the Fisheries Research and Development Fund.* Not less than fifty percent of the seed oysters removed in any year from any seed area established under the provisions of this subsection, *and planted on the natural oyster bars of the State* shall be planted on the natural oyster bars of the county in which that seed area is located. The Department shall cause to be published a notice of reservation of any such area or areas in one newspaper of general circulation in the State and in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the county or counties in whose waters the area or areas are located, not less than thirty days prior to the proposed date of closing, and shall schedule a public hearing on the proposal not less than fifteen days before the proposed date of closing; such hearing shall be held at the county seat of the county in which the affected waters are located; if such waters are located in more than one county then the hearing shall be held in that county seat of the affected counties which is closest to the affected waters; if the area affected is totally within State waters, then such hearing shall be held in Annapolis.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1967.

Approved April 21, 1967.