

thereto. The fee for such license shall not exceed \$25.00 for a person who has been a resident of Maryland for one year immediately preceding his application for license, or \$100.00 for a person who is not a resident of the State.

(9) PROTECTION OF SOFT SHELL CLAMS FROM CONTAMINATION, OR FROM DETERIORATION AS A RESULT OF EXPOSURE TO EXCESSIVE HEAT.

#### *Revocation or Suspension of Licenses*

(h) The Department is authorized to suspend or revoke any license issued under the provisions of this section or regulations adopted pursuant thereto upon conviction of the licensee or his agent of ~~any violation~~ MORE THAN TWO VIOLATIONS IN ANY LICENSE YEAR of the provisions of this section or regulations adopted pursuant thereto, AFTER DUE HEARING UPON NOT LESS THAN TEN DAYS NOTICE TO THE LICENSEE.

#### *Inspection Tax*

(i) A severance tax of ten cents per bushel is hereby levied on all soft shell clams caught within the geographical limits of this State. The tax shall be paid by the buyer of such clams at the place in Maryland where the clams are to be no further shipped in bulk in vessel, or before such clams are carried out of this State in vessel, and remitted weekly to the Department for deposit to the credit of the Fisheries Research and Development Fund.

(j) It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to take, catch, or dredge soft shell clams from any county waters of Charles or Wicomico counties by the use of any hydraulic or mechanical clam dredge. Any person who is convicted of violation of this subsection shall be fined \$500.00 and costs.

#### *Penalty*

(k) Any person who violates any provision of this section or regulations adopted under provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

(l) The Department shall cause to be elected in each county in which soft shell clams may legally be taken by hydraulic clam dredge, by persons licensed under the provisions of this section, an advisory committee of five persons, of whom four shall be persons who are licensed to operate a hydraulic clam dredge and one shall be a person who is licensed solely to buy, sell, ship, or transport clams. The Department shall confer with the committees so elected concerning matters affecting the management of the soft shell clam fishery.

(M) THE DEPARTMENT OF CHESAPEAKE BAY AFFAIRS MAY SEIZE ANY OR ALL SOFT SHELL CLAMS THAT MAY BE CAUGHT, SOLD, OFFERED FOR SALE, OR HELD IN POSSESSION IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, TO BE DISPOSED OF AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1970.

Approved May 21, 1970.