

particular "State and local facilities loan." Nothing herein contained shall affect any existing exemption from taxation as otherwise provided by law. ~~(1968, ch. 593.)~~

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1971.

Approved May 17, 1971.

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CHAPTER 521

(House Bill 309)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 698 (A) of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Oysters and Clams," to provide that oysters or clams can be caught by string or trays, or similar devices and to provide for string culture of oysters generally.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That Section 698 of Article 66C of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Natural Resources," subtitle "Oysters and Clams," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

698.

(a) It shall be legal to take or catch oysters or clams in the waters of this State by rakes, tongs, patent tongs, dredges, ~~for~~ hand scrapes, ~~string or trays or similar devices~~ as defined in this subtitle, and by no other means, except that in addition to the foregoing means, soft-shell clams may be caught or taken by hydraulic or mechanical dredges or rigs.

(i)(1) *It shall be legal for any resident of Maryland to catch seed oysters, in Maryland waters, by suspended means, such as by strings or trays, or similar devices providing said strings or trays or similar devices do not touch bottom and do not interfere with navigation.*

(A) IT SHALL BE LEGAL TO CATCH OYSTERS OR CLAMS IN THE WATERS OF THIS STATE BY RAKES, PATENT TONGS, DREDGES, AND SCRAPES, CULTCH MATERIAL SUSPENDED ON STRINGS, IN TRAYS, IN BAGS, OR SIMILAR DEVICES AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION, AND BY NO OTHER MEANS, EXCEPT THAT IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING MEANS, SOFT-SHELL CLAMS MAY BE CAUGHT BY HYDRAULIC OR MECHANICAL DREDGES OR RIGS.

(I)(1) IT SHALL BE LEGAL FOR ANY RESIDENT OF MARYLAND TO CATCH OYSTER SPAT IN MARYLAND WATERS BY SUSPENDED MEANS SUCH AS CULTCH MA-