

language has been added to require publication in every county newspaper because as a result of the Bruce decision every State resident is affected by the department's actions not merely the residents of one county.

Subsection (c) presently appears as Article 66C, section 708(k) of the Code. The term "protests", used to describe persons protesting a lease, is proposed for deletion and the more common word "protesters", is substituted therefor.

The provision directing the court to furnish the defendant with a copy of the petition and requiring an answer within 15 days is proposed for deletion because these directives merely reiterate the procedures of the Maryland Rules of Procedure.

The phrase "and its amendments" is added to indicate that the Oyster Survey of 1906 to 1912 should be interpreted in light of any deletion or addition.

Subsection (d) presently appears as Article 66C, section 708(l) of the Code. Subsection (e) presently appears as Article 66C, section 708(m) of the Code. The only other changes made are in style.

4-1110. RENT AND TERM OF LEASE; TERMINATION.

(A) RENT AND TERM OF LEASE. - THE TERM OF LEASES FOR SUBMERGED LANDS SHALL BE 20 YEARS AT AN ANNUAL RENT THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS PROPER AND COMMENSURATE WITH THE VALUE OF THE LEASED LAND.

(B) REDUCTION OR ABATEMENT OF RENT FOR DAMAGED OYSTER GROUNDS. - IF THE DEPARTMENT ASCERTAINS THAT ANY LEASED AREA IS AFFECTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS WHICH DESTROY OR SERIOUSLY IMPEDE THE CULTURE AND GROWTH OF OYSTERS AND THREATEN THE POTENTIAL OF THE AREA FOR CONTINUED OYSTER PRODUCTION, IT MAY REDUCE OR ABATE THE ANNUAL RENT BY AN AMOUNT AND FOR A PERIOD THE DEPARTMENT DEEMS EQUITABLE AND REASONABLE IN VIEW OF THE DEGREE OF DAMAGE.

(C) TERMINATION OF LEASE; SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR CHARLES COUNTY. - IF ANY PART OF THE RENT REQUIRED BY