

undertaken since 1906; and

WHEREAS, Without extensive revision of existing charts, the exact location of natural bars and barren bottom cannot be determined; and

[[WHEREAS, On the basis of the unreliable information contained in these charts, large tracts of submerged lands are leased; and]]

WHEREAS, The purpose of leasing submerged areas is to redeem barren bottom to create productive shellfish bars through careful management; and

WHEREAS, The leased areas frequently are not managed with the intention to restore the areas and instead the leasing privilege is abused; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Secretary of Natural Resources is requested to prohibit further leasing of submerged areas until a comprehensive survey of the submerged lands can be made to determine the exact location of distinctive natural bars and barren bottom; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Natural Resources is urged to reexamine the existing law under which submerged land is leased and to consider placing upon the applicant a burden of demonstrating the area included is barren bottom and therefore eligible for lease; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to: James Coulter, Secretary of Natural Resources, Tawes State Office Building, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; and the Officers and Board of Directors of the Maryland Watermen's Association, Inc.: Lester J. Belcher, Jr., 13 School Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; Robert Furice, Rt. 15, Box 626, Baltimore, Maryland 21220; James Willard Dutton, White Plains, Maryland 20695; Robert Jones, Box 77 White Hall Road, Cambridge, Maryland 21613; Jerome Robinson, Toddville, Maryland 21672; Larry Simms, Rock Hall, Maryland 21661; Norman Dorrell, Box 151, Grasonville, Maryland 21638; Dave Sayre, St. Georges Island, Maryland 20683; Morris G. Maqsh, Ewell, Maryland 21824; John Kinnamon, Tilghman, Maryland 21671; Benjamin P. Waters, Nanticoke, Maryland 21826; and Ricks Savage, Rt. 2 Box 212, Berlin, Maryland 21811.

Approved May 31, 1974.