

licensed tongers, who earn their livelihood by catching oysters, for each tidewater county of the state. When planting shells or seed oysters or closing or reserving any tonging area, the department shall confer with and procure the advice of the committee of oystermen for the county adjacent or nearest to the area.

[(2) The Fisheries Administration shall submit an annual summary of the Fisheries Research and Development Fund, which shall include an accounting of receipts and expenditures, to the committee of oystermen in each county.

(3) A similar advisory committee of five licensed dredgers shall be selected to confer and advise in the propagation of oysters in the dredging areas. When a vacancy occurs because a member is unable or unwilling to serve and this vacancy is not filled by the licensed oystermen of the particular county within 30 days after the vacancy occurs, the department shall make the necessary appointments to fill each vacancy. When the committee members are selected or when any vacancy is filled, the department shall promptly notify the members of the General Assembly from the county of the names of the committee members selected or appointed to fill a vacancy in that county.]

(2) A SIMILAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF FIVE LICENSED DREDGERS SHALL BE SELECTED TO CONFER AND ADVISE IN THE PROPAGATION OF OYSTERS IN THE DREDGING AREAS.

(3) THE TERM OF MEMBERSHIP FOR EACH COMMITTEE IS FOUR YEARS, EXCEPT THAT OF THE ORIGINAL COMMITTEEMEN, THREE ARE TO SERVE A FOUR-YEAR TERM AND TWO ARE TO SERVE A TWO-YEAR TERM. EACH TERM BEGINS ON MARCH 1.

(4) IF A VACANCY OCCURS BECAUSE A MEMBER IS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO SERVE [[AND THIS VACANCY IS NOT FILLED BY THE LICENSED OYSTERMEN OF THE PARTICULAR COUNTY WITHIN 30 DAYS]]. THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY SHALL NOTIFY IN WRITING EACH MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE VACANCY. THE COMMITTEE SHALL ARRANGE FOR A NEW ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY. IF THE VACANCY IS NOT FILLED WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE VACANCY OCCURS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE THE NECESSARY APPOINTMENTS TO FILL EACH VACANCY. WHEN COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE SELECTED OR WHEN ANY VACANCY IS FILLED, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOTIFY PROMPTLY THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM THE COUNTY OF THE NAMES OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS SELECTED OR APPOINTED TO FILL A VACANCY IN THAT COUNTY. AN APPOINTMENT TO A VACANCY IN AN UNEXPIRED TERM IS LIMITED TO THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM.