

vehicle he uses.

(e) The Department may not issue an oyster buyer's license unless the applicant pays all taxes due for the previous oyster season under § 4-1020 of this subtitle.]

SECTION 2. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 4-1017 of Article - Natural Resources, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1974 Volume and 1976 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

4-1017.

(a) [A person who has a fixed place of business buying oysters and employing labor to prepare them for market first shall obtain a license from the Department in order to engage in the business of buying, selling, marketing, packing, or canning oysters. He shall obtain a separate license for each house he operates in which oysters are shucked or otherwise prepared for market. Every person when he applies for the license shall pay a \$25 license fee.] UNLESS A DEALER'S LICENSE FIRST IS OBTAINED FROM THE DEPARTMENT, A PERSON MAY NOT (1) HAVE A FIXED PLACE OF BUSINESS BUYING OYSTERS AND EMPLOYING LABOR TO PREPARE THEM FOR MARKET, OR (2) BUY MORE THAN 25 BUSHELS OF OYSTERS FROM A PERSON WHO CATCHES THEM FROM THE NATURAL OYSTER BARS OF THE STATE. THE DEALER'S LICENSE FEE IS \$100. A DEALER SHALL OBTAIN A SEPARATE LICENSE FOR EACH HOUSE HE OPERATES IN WHICH OYSTERS ARE SHUCKED OR OTHERWISE PREPARED FOR MARKET.

(b) The [packers and] dealers license is valid from September 1 of the issuing year to August 31 of the succeeding year, inclusive.

(c) EVERY BOAT, VESSEL OR VEHICLE USED BY A LICENSED OYSTER DEALER IN PURCHASING OYSTERS SHALL BE LICENSED ANNUALLY FOR A \$10 FEE FOR EACH BOAT, VESSEL, OR VEHICLE. PROOF OF OWNERSHIP OF THE BOAT, VESSEL, OR VEHICLE IS REQUIRED. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A PLATE OR TAG CARRYING THE LICENSE NUMBER FOR EACH BOAT, VESSEL, OR VEHICLE LICENSE AND IT SHALL BE ATTACHED SECURELY TO THE BOAT, VESSEL, OR VEHICLE FOR WHICH IT IS ISSUED. THE FEE IS \$1 TO REPLACE ANY LICENSE TAG ISSUED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

[(c)] (d) The Department may not issue an oyster [packer's and] dealer's license unless the applicant pays all taxes due for the prior year under § 4-1020 of this subtitle.

[(d)] (e) A person may possess oysters caught from the natural oyster bars of the State until one week past the close of the season for taking oysters as established in § 4-1008 of this article. Oysters may be caught by