

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Natural Resources and the University of Maryland--Center--for Environmental--and--Estuarine--Studies--shall--conduct--a--study--(1)--to explore--techniques--to--insure--the--most--efficient--utilization--of fresh--oyster--shells--obtained--from--the--Maryland--packers;--and (2)--to--determine--what--is--considered--to--be--a--fresh--oyster--shell shall study various methods to insure the maximum amount of fresh oyster shell is returned to the tidal waters of the State in a manner that will encourage additional oyster production. These methods shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) Requiring packers to return fresh oyster shell to the tidal waters of the State without compensation;

(b) Purchasing oyster shell at a negotiated price; and

(c) Granting tax credits or incentives to packers who return oyster shell to the tidal waters of the State.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the study--under this--Act--shall--consider--using--planting--techniques--that--are designed--to--maximize--the--production--of--oysters--on--fresh--oyster shells That the Department shall report the results of their study to the General Assembly on or before July 1, 1987.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the study--under this--Act--shall--give--consideration--to--the--immediate--planting--of fresh--oyster--shells--that--contain--small--oysters--or--spat.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Natural Resources shall report its findings to the General Assembly by or before August 15, 1986.

SECTION -6- 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1986.

Approved May 13, 1986.

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