

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

4-1106.

(a) The Department may transplant oysters, shells, or other cultch from one closed area to another, transplant or otherwise utilize within the State seed oysters produced on shells or other cultch planted by the Department, or transplant or utilize any other seed oyster which may accumulate on areas where seed oysters are not likely to develop into desirable marketable oysters.

(b) (1) The Department shall have licensed oystermen in each tidewater county of this State select a county committee of five representative licensed tongers, who earn their livelihood by catching oysters, to confer with the Department concerning oyster propagation conducted by the Department in that county. Each county committee shall elect a chairman to serve on a statewide committee of oystermen to advise the Department on statewide issues concerning oyster propagation.

(2) A similar advisory committee that includes licensed dredgers shall be selected to confer with the Department concerning the propagation of oysters in the dredging areas. The committee shall elect a chairman to serve on a statewide committee of oystermen to advise the Department on statewide issues concerning oyster propagation.

(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HAVE APPOINT 5 REPRESENTATIVE, LICENSED OYSTERMEN OF THIS STATE WHO EARN THEIR LIVELIHOOD CATCHING OYSTERS BY USING DIVING APPARATUS SELECT AS A COMMITTEE OF--FIVE--REPRESENTATIVE--DIVERS TO CONFER WITH THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING OYSTER PROPAGATION CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE AREAS OF THE STATE WHERE THE CATCHING OF OYSTERS BY USING DIVING APPARATUS IS PERMITTED. THE COMMITTEE SHALL SELECT A CHAIRMAN TO SERVE ON A STATEWIDE COMMITTEE OF OYSTERMEN TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT ON STATEWIDE ISSUES CONCERNING OYSTER PROPAGATION.

(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPOINT 5 REPRESENTATIVE, LICENSED OYSTERMEN OF THIS STATE WHO EARN THEIR LIVELIHOOD CATCHING OYSTERS BY USING PATENT TONGS AS A COMMITTEE TO CONFER WITH THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING OYSTER PROPAGATION CONDUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE AREAS OF THE STATE WHERE THE CATCHING OF OYSTERS BY USING PATENT TONGS IS PERMITTED. THE COMMITTEE SHALL SELECT A CHAIRMAN TO SERVE ON A STATEWIDE COMMITTEE OF OYSTERMEN TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT ON STATEWIDE ISSUES CONCERNING OYSTER PROPAGATION.