

[(3)] ~~(4)~~ (5) 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)] ~~(5)~~ (6) If a vacancy occurs because a member is unable or unwilling to serve, 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.

[(5)] ~~(6)~~ (7) The Department shall prescribe by rule and regulation the time, place, and manner of selection of the oyster committees.

[(6)] ~~(7)~~ (8) The Fisheries Administration shall submit an annual summary of the Fisheries Research and Development Fund to the committee of oystermen for each county. The summary shall include an accounting of receipts and expenditures.

(c) The Department shall expend any fund appropriated in the budget for oyster propagation for the planting of oyster shells, other cultch, or seed oysters on natural oyster bars or seed areas, or for the purchase of necessary equipment.

(d) The Department may close without holding a public hearing any natural oyster bar in the waters of the State with the approval of the appropriate committee of oystermen.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1988.

Approved May 2, 1988.

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