

in submerged land acquired under the provision of item 1. of this subparagraph to any person, corporation, or joint stock company.

3. Any transfer or attempt to transfer an interest in submerged land acquired under the provisions of item 1. of this subparagraph shall be void, and the interest in submerged land shall revert to the State without the necessity of any action by the State.-}-

(3) Under ~~rules--and~~ regulations that the Department adopts, and in conjunction with the 4-H advisory board in a county, the Department may make equal and matching grants of up to \$1,000 a county for any number of 4-H clubs in a county that:

(i) Are actively involved in oyster cultivation research;

(ii) Are leasing or acquiring any submerged land under paragraph (2) of this subsection; and

(iii) Have received or have a guarantee to receive a research grant from the county for oyster cultivation research.

(b) ~~-{The-}-EXCEPT-FOR-SUBMERGED-AREAS-WITHIN-AQUACULTURE ENTERPRISE-ZONES,~~ THE Department may not lease any of the submerged areas of the State within the jurisdictional boundaries of Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset and Talbot counties for oyster cultivation~~-{.~~ The Department also may not~~-}-NOR MAY--THE-DEPARTMENT~~ lease any of the submerged areas of the State in the tidewater tributaries of Charles County, except the Patuxent River, for oyster cultivation. This subsection does not affect any existing lease in Somerset County made prior to and effective on June 1, 1952; any lease in Dorchester County made prior to and effective on June 1, 1957; in Charles County made prior to and effective on July 1, 1968 and in Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties made prior to July 1, 1973. This subsection also does not prevent any lessee from renewing, assigning, devising by will or prohibit the descendents of any lessee, his heirs, or next of kin, from inheriting rights by the operation of the laws of descent and distribution. If an existing lease does not provide for renewal, the Department may grant renewal when the lease terminates unless good cause to the contrary is shown. However, a person may not lease more acreage than now authorized by law regardless of the manner in which the lease or the rights under the lease are obtained.

(c) A lease may not be granted for any of the following submerged areas of the State, and a person may not acquire by lease, assignment, appropriation, or otherwise any of the enumerated areas: any area beneath any creek, cove, bay, or inlet less than 300 feet wide at its mouth at mean low tide; any natural oyster or natural clam bar as defined in this subtitle;