

power dredging of oysters; establishing a certain oyster sanctuary in Somerset County; prohibiting the catching of oysters from the oyster sanctuary; providing for the review and termination of certain provisions of this Act; and generally relating to power dredging the catching of oysters in waters contiguous to Somerset County.

BY adding to

Article - Natural Resources

Section 4-1014

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1989 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

Article - Natural Resources

4-1014.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE WATERS OF THE STATE THAT LIE CONTIGUOUS TO SOMERSET COUNTY IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY.

(B) A PERSON SHALL BE LICENSED BY THE DEPARTMENT BEFORE THE PERSON MAY CATCH OYSTERS WITH A POWER DREDGE IN THE WATERS OF THE STATE THAT LIE CONTIGUOUS TO SOMERSET COUNTY, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

(C) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT HOLD AN OYSTER HARVESTER LICENSE AND A POWER DREDGE LICENSE SIMULTANEOUSLY.

(2) THE DEPARTMENT:

(I) MAY ISSUE A POWER DREDGE LICENSE ONLY TO THE HOLDER OF AN OYSTER HARVESTER LICENSE; AND

(II) SHALL SUSPEND A PERSON'S OYSTER HARVESTER LICENSE ON ISSUANCE OF A POWER DREDGE LICENSE UNTIL THE TIME THAT THE HOLDER SURRENDERS THE POWER DREDGE LICENSE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

(3) (I) IF A PERSON WANTS TO REOBTAIN THE PERSON'S PREVIOUSLY VALID OYSTER HARVESTER LICENSE, THE PERSON SHALL RETURN THE PERSON'S CURRENTLY VALID POWER DREDGING LICENSE TO THE DEPARTMENT.

(II) UPON RECEIPT OF THE POWER DREDGING LICENSE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EXCHANGE AT NO COST THE POWER DREDGING LICENSE FOR THE PERSON'S FORMER, CURRENTLY VALID OYSTER LICENSE.

(D) A PERSON MAY CATCH OYSTERS BY POWER DREDGE ONLY DURING THE POWER DREDGING SEASON FROM NOVEMBER 1 TO MARCH 15 IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

(1) IN THE WATERS OF THIS STATE THAT LIE CONTIGUOUS TO SOMERSET COUNTY, INCLUDING ALL OF THE WATERS FROM THE AREA OF KEDGES