

(2) The regulations adopted by the Secretary may vary the limits established under subsection (e)(2)(i) of this section.

(3) (I) THE REGULATIONS SHALL ESTABLISH AN OYSTER SANCTUARY OF NOT LESS THAN 100 ACRES WITHIN THE AREA DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (D)(4) OF THIS SECTION.

(II) A PERSON MAY NOT CATCH OYSTERS IN THE SANCTUARY ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(III) THE SANCTUARY SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE POWER DREDGE SEASON.

(4) THE REGULATIONS SHALL AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM AT THE BEGINNING OF THE POWER DREDGE SEASON TO PURCHASE OYSTERS AT NO LESS THAN MARKET PRICE FROM A PERSON WHO HAS A POWER DREDGE LICENSE UNDER THIS SECTION TO BE TRANSPLANTED FOR RESTORATION PURPOSES TO THE OYSTER SANCTUARY DESCRIBED BY REGULATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(5) A PERSON MAY NOT CATCH OYSTERS IN ANY AREA CLOSED TO HYDRAULIC CLAM DREDGING UNDER § 4-1006.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(6) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS RESERVING AREAS ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS FOR RESTORATION AND HARVESTING PURPOSES.

(7) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING AN APPROPRIATE PENALTY TO BE ASSESSED AGAINST A PERSON CONVICTED OF TAKING OYSTERS FROM A SANCTUARY OR RESERVED AREA.

(g) (1) There is an oyster sanctuary in the area known as the Webster ground that includes all the waters inshore of a line northeasterly from Long Point to latitude 38 degrees, 12.63 minutes and longitude, 75 degrees, 51.85 minutes, a designated point in Monie Bay, then southwesterly to the eastern entrance to Pigeon House Creek.

(2) A person may not catch oysters in the oyster sanctuary described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

#### **Chapter 576 of the Acts of 1997**

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997. [Sections 2 and 3 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of September 30, 2001, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Sections 2 and 3 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.]

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 4-1014 of Article - Natural Resources of the Annotated Code be repealed.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: