

**CHAPTER 633****(House Bill 422)**

AN ACT concerning

**Dorchester County - Power Dredging for Oysters**

FOR the purpose of allowing a person to power dredge oysters in waters contiguous to Dorchester County if the person holds a certain license issued by the Department of Natural Resources; authorizing the Department to issue certain licenses and the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources to adopt certain regulations relating to power dredging of oysters; requiring the Secretary to adopt certain regulations regarding a certain oyster sanctuary; prohibiting a person from catching oysters in a certain oyster sanctuary; limiting the season when a licensee can power dredge oysters under this Act; placing certain restrictions on the power dredging of oysters; requiring the Department to establish certain regulations establishing certain penalties; requiring the Department to submit a certain report by a certain date; providing for the termination of certain provisions of this Act; providing for the delayed effective date of a certain provision of this Act; and generally relating to the power dredging of oysters in waters contiguous to Dorchester County.

BY adding to

Article - Natural Resources

Section 4-1014.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1997 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

**Article - Natural Resources**

4-1014.1.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE WATERS OF THE STATE THAT LIE CONTIGUOUS TO DORCHESTER 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 DORCHESTER COUNTY IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY, EXCEPT FOR A PERSON HOLDING A VALID LICENSE TO CATCH OYSTERS BY DREDGE BOAT LICENSE AND DREDGING FOR OYSTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 4-1013 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

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

(2) THE DEPARTMENT: