

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

(II) A PERSON MAY NOT CATCH OYSTERS IN THE OYSTER SANCTUARY DESCRIBED IN THE REGULATIONS.

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

(4) THE REGULATIONS MAY 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 IN REGULATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

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

(6) 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.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, 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 MAY NOT CATCH OYSTERS IN AN OYSTER SANCTUARY THAT WAS ESTABLISHED BY REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Natural Resources shall conduct a study of the impact of power dredging and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, report to the General Assembly on or before January 1, 2004.

SECTION 2. 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Sections 1 and 3 of this Act shall take effect June 1, 1999 and shall remain effective for a period of 5 years. At the end of May 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, Sections 1 and 3 of this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall take effect on the taking effect of the termination provision specified in Section 4 of this Act.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to the provisions of Section 5 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 1999.