

Dec. Ses. 1822

persons owning the shores of the Patuxent river, and having established fisheries at the same, are frequently, greatly and wantonly injured by the improper conduct of persons floating gill nets; therefore,

Penalty for offence.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the passage of this act, if any person or persons shall cause or permit his, her or their gill net or nets to be floated across, over, or through the seine or seines of any person or persons, whilst making what are commonly called sweep hauls, the person or persons so causing or wilfully permitting his, her or their gill net or nets to be floated across, over or through the seine or seines, whilst so hauling, shall forfeit and pay a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, one half to the informer the other half to the county where the offence is committed.

Proceedings.

2. *And be it enacted,* That it shall and may be lawful, and is hereby required of any justice of the peace in this state, upon information, on oath, of such offence or offences having been committed, to issue his warrant for the apprehension of such offender or offenders, and when the person or persons so offending shall be brought before him, to hear, adjudge and decide the same, agreeably to the evidence produced, and that for whatever sum he may deem proper, not exceeding twenty dollars, he shall enter a judgment in the name of the state, which sum shall be recovered in the same manner as all other sums within the jurisdiction of a justice of the peace, are recovered, one half to be paid over by the constable collecting the same to the clerk of the levy court for the county where the offence was committed, and the other half to the informer.

CHAPTER. 215.

Passed Feb. 24, 1823.

An additional supplement to the act, entitled, An act to erect a town in Queen Ann's county.

Annual election of commissioners.

Section 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That from and after the passage of this act, it shall and may be lawful for all persons residing within the corporate limits of the town of Centreville, in Queen Ann's county, having a residence in said town of six months, and being entitled to vote for delegates to the general assembly, to meet at the Court House in the said town, on the first Monday in April next, and on the said day and month, annually, thereafter, to elect by ballot seven discreet and sensible men, residents of, and holding real property in the said town, as commissioners for the same.

Vacancies.

2. *And be it enacted,* That upon the death, resignation, or disqualification of any of the commissioners, who may hereafter be elected in consequence of this act, the citizens of the said town, qualified to vote as aforesaid, shall proceed as soon as convenient to elect by ballot, at the place aforesaid, a wise and discreet person or persons residing and holding real property in said town, to fill such vacancy or vacancies that may happen; and the office of each and every commissioner elected agreeably to the provisions of this act, shall be vacated by his or their removal from the said town.

Commissioners qualification.

3. *And be it enacted,* That every commissioner, who shall be hereafter elected in virtue of this act, before he proceeds to act as such, shall make oath or affirmation, as the case may be, before any justice of the peace for the county aforesaid, that he will diligently and faithfully, to the best of his skill and judgment, perform the duties of a commissioner of the said town, agreeably to the directions of this