Unofficial Copy M3 2000 Regular Session 0lr1973

By: Senator Stoltzfus

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000 Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

\_\_\_\_\_

## A BILL ENTITLED

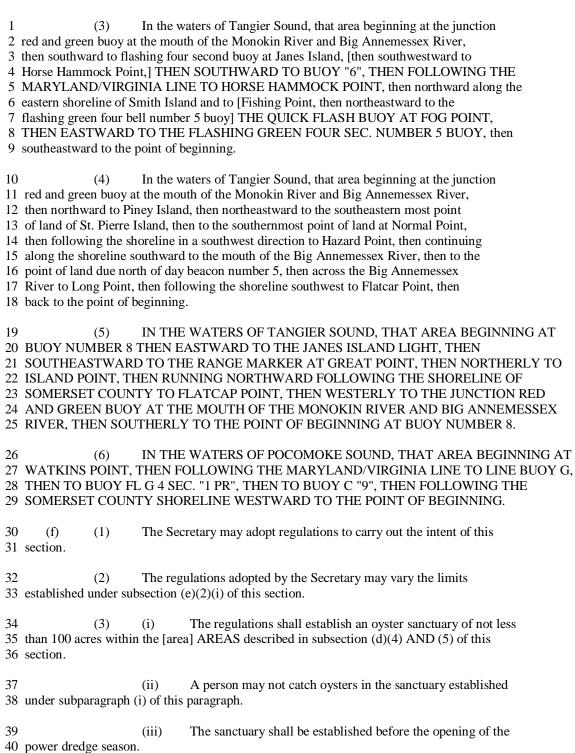
1 AN ACT concerning

## 2 Waters Contiguous to Somerset County - Power Dredging - Oysters

- 3 FOR the purpose of altering the boundaries of certain areas in which a person may
- 4 catch oysters by power dredging during a certain time period; adding to the area
- 5 in which the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources may adopt
- 6 certain regulations to establish oyster sanctuaries; and generally relating to
- 7 power dredging and oysters in waters contiguous to Somerset County.
- 8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 9 Article Natural Resources
- 10 Section 4-1014(d) and (f)
- 11 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 12 (1997 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)
- 13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
- 14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 15 Article Natural Resources

16 4-1014.

- 17 (d) The Department shall establish zones by regulation within the following
- 18 areas in which a person may catch oysters by power dredge only during the power
- 19 dredging season from November 1 to March 30:
- 20 (1) In the waters of this State that lie contiguous to Somerset County,
- 21 including all of the waters from the area of Kedges Straits from a line drawn from the
- 22 quick flash buoy at Fog Point east to Solomons Lump Light, north to Sheepshead
- 23 Point, and along the west side of South March Island to the crab pot line on Pry
- 24 Island: and
- 25 (2) In the waters of Tangier Sound, that area enclosed by a line
- 26 beginning at buoy "8", then eastward to James Island Light, then to the range marker
- 27 at Great Point, then following the shoreline southward to the Maryland/Virginia line,
- 28 then westward to buoy "6", then northward to buoy "8", the point of beginning.



## **SENATE BILL 538**

- 1 (4) The regulations shall authorize the Department to establish a 2 program at the beginning of the power dredge season to purchase oysters at no less
- 3 than market price from a person who has a power dredge license under this section to
- 4 be transplanted for restoration purposes to the oyster sanctuary described by
- 5 regulation in accordance with paragraph (3) of this subsection.
- A person may not catch oysters in any area closed to hydraulic clam 7 dredging under § 4-1006.1 of this subtitle.
- 8 The Department shall adopt regulations reserving areas on a 9 rotational basis for restoration and harvesting purposes.
- 10 The Department shall adopt regulations establishing an appropriate (7)
- 11 penalty to be assessed against a person convicted of taking oysters from a sanctuary
- 12 or reserved area.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 13
- 14 October 1, 2000.