

Chapter 427

(Senate Bill 159)

AN ACT concerning

Natural Resources – Oyster Poaching – Hearing

FOR the purpose of providing that a certain person who receives a citation for a certain offense related to unlawfully taking oysters may have a certain license revoked under certain circumstances; establishing certain grounds for the revocation of a certain license; requiring the Department of Natural Resources to hold a certain hearing under certain circumstances in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act; requiring the Department to revoke a person's license to catch oysters under certain circumstances; authorizing certain aggrieved persons to obtain judicial review of a certain decision; prohibiting a certain person from engaging or working in a certain fishery under certain circumstances; and generally relating to unlawfully taking oysters and license revocation.

BY adding to

Article – Natural Resources

Section 4–1210

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2005 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

Article – Natural Resources

4–1210.

(A) (1) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTY OR FINE PROVIDED IN THIS TITLE, A PERSON WHO HOLDS A LICENSE TO CATCH OYSTERS UNDER § 4–701 OF THIS TITLE AND RECEIVES A CITATION FOR AN OFFENSE LISTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY HAVE THE LICENSE REVOKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.

(2) THE FOLLOWING OFFENSES, COMMITTED IN VIOLATION OF THIS TITLE OR OF ANY REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER THIS TITLE, ARE GROUNDS FOR REVOCATION OF A LICENSE TO CATCH OYSTERS UNDER THIS SECTION:

(I) TAKING OYSTERS LOCATED MORE THAN 200 FEET WITHIN A CLOSED OR PROHIBITED AREA;

(II) TAKING OYSTERS WITH GEAR THAT IS PROHIBITED IN THAT AREA;

(III) TAKING OYSTERS OUTSIDE OF A TIME RESTRICTION FOR THE HARVEST OF OYSTERS BY MORE THAN 1 HOUR;

(IV) TAKING OYSTERS DURING CLOSED SEASONS; AND

(V) TAKING OYSTERS FROM A LEASED AREA BY A PERSON OTHER THAN THE LEASEHOLDER OR THE LEASEHOLDER'S DESIGNEE.

(B) (1) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER A PERSON WHO HOLDS A LICENSE TO CATCH OYSTERS UNDER § 4-701 OF THIS TITLE RECEIVES A CITATION FOR AN OFFENSE LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HOLD A HEARING ON THE MATTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(2) AFTER A HEARING IS CONDUCTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF THE PRESIDING OFFICER FINDS OR CONCLUDES THAT THE PERSON KNOWINGLY HAS COMMITTED AN OFFENSE LISTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVOKE THE PERSON'S LICENSE TO CATCH OYSTERS.

(C) A PERSON WHO IS AGGRIEVED BY THE FINAL DECISION OF THE DEPARTMENT MAY OBTAIN JUDICIAL REVIEW OF THE DECISION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(D) A PERSON WHOSE LICENSE HAS BEEN REVOKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION MAY NOT ENGAGE OR WORK IN THE FISHERY FOR WHICH THE LICENSE WAS REVOKED WHETHER OR NOT IT REQUIRES THE USE OF ANOTHER LICENSE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2011.

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2011.