

Commission unless and until the same has been approved by the Board of Public Works of Maryland. And whenever the existence of any mineral or rare earth deposit under the public navigable waters of the Chesapeake Bay is brought to the attention of the Conservation Commission by an applicant, preference is to be given to the discoverer of the deposit as against any other applicant within the discretion of the Board of Public Works. All such permits or leases shall contain such regulations, covering operations thereunder for the purpose of extracting minerals or rare earths, including the number of acres permissible under one permit, as well as the number of permits to any one person, firm, association or corporation, as shall seem necessary to the Conservation Commission and the Board of Public Works for the protection of navigation channels and all other interests of the State.

No permit or lease shall be granted under the provisions of this sub-title for the removal or extracting of minerals or rare earths within 300 yards of mean low water mark without the written permission of the riparian owner or owners, nor within 300 yards of any charted natural oyster bar or leased bottom. No one permit or lease shall be made for more than 500 acres and no leased area under the provisions of this sub-title shall be within 600 yards of any other such leased area.

An. Code, 1924, sec. 19. 1929, ch. 574, sec. 19

19. Immediately after the approval of the application by the Board of Public Works of Maryland, the Conservation Commission shall execute and deliver to the applicant an exclusive permit or lease to dredge for or otherwise recover rare earths and minerals from the lands approved in the application. This permit or lease shall be exclusive in its nature and while it remains in force no other permit or lease shall be granted covering the same land. The permit or lease shall run for not more than five years unless approved by the General Assembly of Maryland; provided, that, upon the expiration of any permit or lease, such permit or lease may be extended from time to time at the discretion of the Conservation Commission, with the approval of the Board of Public Works until the next session of the General Assembly of Maryland, upon such terms and conditions as may then be prescribed by law. Any person, firm, association or corporation who has been granted a permit or lease shall pay a rental of \$5.00 per acre in advance for a five year permit or lease and such sum as royalty per gross ton for the ensuing year as may be fixed by the Conservation Commission with the approval of the Board of Public Works, at the time the permit or lease is issued and shall be subject to yearly changes, in the discretion of the Conservation Commission, with the approval of the Board of Public Works; provided, that at the same time the yearly statement is rendered, in accordance with the provision therefor in Section 14 of this Article, the Conservation Commission, with the approval of the Board of Public Works, shall yearly fix the royalty per gross ton for the ensuing calendar year.

An. Code, 1924, sec. 20. 1929, ch. 574, sec. 20.

20. The Conservation Commission, with the approval of the Board of Public Works is hereby authorized to prepare, make, execute and deliver all papers, instruments and documents and to do any and all things necessary to carry out the provisions of this sub-title.