

CHAPTER 431.

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments, section two hundred and fifty-eight of Article ten of the Public Local Laws of Maryland, title "Dorchester County," sub-title "Oysters."

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That section two hundred and fifty-eight of Article ten of the Public Local Laws of Maryland, title "Dorchester county," sub-title "Oysters," be and the same is hereby repealed and re-enacted with amendments, so as to read as follows: Repeal.

258. Any person who shall use any boat, canoe or vessel to catch oysters with scrapes or dredges in any of the waters of said county not authorized by section two hundred and fifty-three of this article, as amended by chapter 456 of the Acts of eighteen hundred and ninety-four, or refuses to exhibit the custom house or dredging license whenever called for by any officer of the State of Maryland, or for catching oysters before the season commences or after it has closed, or for any other violation of sections 253 to 262 inclusive, the penalty for which is not otherwise provided for, shall upon conviction thereof before a justice of the peace or judge of the Circuit Court for Dorchester county, upon indictment by the grand jury, be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than one hundred dollars, or shall be imprisoned in the House of Correction for not less than three months nor more than six months, or shall be both fined and imprisoned in the discretion of the court or justice trying the same; and in the event of a fine being imposed, the party shall stand committed until the fine and costs are paid; provided, that before a justice of the peace shall proceed to try any case under said sections, he shall require the person charged with such violation to make his election either to be tried before said justice or before the Circuit Court for Dorchester county, and said election shall be entered upon the record of the said justice; if he elects to be tried before the Circuit Court, he shall be required to give bond with approved security to the State, in double the amount of the fine named for said offense, for his appearance at the first term of said court held in said county; if any one or all of such defendants shall elect to be tried before said justice of the peace, the justice shall proceed to docket the case in usual form, and hear and decide the same. Unlawful to catch oysters.

Approved April 9, 1898.