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LAXITY IN STATE FISHING LICENSES

No General System And No Revenues—Is Different In Virginia

At a hearing Friday afternoon in the Custom-house before a board of government engineers on location of boundaries between navigation channels and fish pounds and nets in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries, the fact was brought out that in Maryland there was no general system to license owners of these nets and pounds and that hence no revenue was driven by the state from the privileges. This laxity was in contrast with testimony by a delegation from Virginia that in that state there was an organized system of issuing licenses and of collecting revenue from the fishing industries.

It was Col. Lansing H. Beach, U. S. A., in charge of the Baltimore district and chairman of the board in session, who brought out by question the disparity in the systems of Maryland and Virginia.

W. E. Dixon, of Rock Hall, Md., was urging the location of lines and the extension of stakes into deeper water.

Colonel Beach: Are licenses issued by the State of Maryland to fishermen and is there any revenue from the privileges which you enjoy?

Mr. Dixon: There is no general law. Sometimes we take out licenses and sometimes we don't. There is a great deal of confusion on the subject.

For Permanent Regulation.

The general object of the hearing was to gather testimony from fishermen and from navigation men on the general regulations issued by the War Department December 30, 1912, governing the policy of fish stakes aud nets in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. These regulstions were tenative. After being in force for two years the conference was held to consider such modifications and to form such new draft in the regulations as will be acceptable, as nearly as possible, to all parties concerned. It has been deemed necessary to specify localities in which there may be full enjoyment of the fishing interests involved.

The general trend of the questions and of the testimony would indicate that with but few modifications the existing regulations will be continued.

The hearing attracted pound-net owners and fishermen from all sections of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries in Maryland and Virginia.

Mr. William Tydings, representing George R Corvel, of Havre de Grace, asked that there be wider channels at Stony Point, by which pound nets would be protected.

C. A. Blackstone, J. W. Apsley, Capt. J. E. Apsley and W. E. Dixon, representing Rock Hall fishermen, asked the retention of the present lines. They asked for the privilege of placing stakes in deeper waters during the shad season, promising to remove them by June 1 each year. Capt. W. C. Eliason, president of the Tolchester Steamboat Company, spoke a good word for the Rock Hall fishermen. He said the captains of the steamers of his company and the fishermen had conferred as to channels and had filed their conclusions with the board.

Attorney Kemp, representing Arthur Gallup, asked for extensions of stakes into deep water at Plum Point.

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