

[Act No. 2604., February 04, 1916]

AN ACT FOR THE PROTECTION OF MARINE MOLLUSCA.

By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Legislature, that:

SECTION 1. Marine mollusca, or the shells of such, may be taken without restriction from any open bed, bank, shell field or other breeding place for shell-fish in Philippine waters by any person operating without the use of boat, submarine dredge, rake, or submarine armor. Likewise marine mollusca whose shells have a value of less than twenty-five pesos per ton may be taken from any open bed, bank, or place by means of any device whatever. The taking of marine mollusca in Philippine waters under other conditions may be lawfully conducted only under license or permit issued in conformity with the provisions of this Act and subject to restriction and regulation as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2. Licenses for taking marine mollusca, or the shells of such, shall be issued and the license fees collected by the Collector of Internal Revenue or his deputies to run for the remainder of the calendar year following the date of issuance. Fees derived therefrom shall accrue to the -provincial treasury of the province where the same are collected. During the vitality of such license, the holder may take marine mollusca anywhere in the Philippine waters.

SEC. 3. A license, to be known as the pearling-boat license, may upon payment of the proper fee, be issued to any vessel whose registration or ownership is such as is prescribed for vessels engaging in the Philippine coastwise trade.

A pearling boat license shall not be issued to any vessel owned or operated in whole or in part by a person who has been twice convicted of violating provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Interior shall from time to time prescribe the fee to be paid for the pearling-boat license, or a scale of fees graduated according to the character or capacity of the vessels to be licensed, and shall announce the same in an order which shall be published at least sixty days before becoming effective. Such fee shall in no case be in excess of four hundred pesos per annum, and may be paid quarterly in advance, in the manner prescribed for, and subject to the same penalties for delinquency as, fixed internal revenue taxes under Act Numbered Twenty-three hundred and thirty-nine.

SEC. 5. A license, to be known as the first-class shell diver's license, authorizing the holder to use submarine armor in taking marine mollusea in Philippine waters may be issued by the Collector of Internal Revenue or his deputies to any person upon the payment of the required fee.

A first-class shell diver's license shall not be issued to any person who has been twice convicted of violating provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. The fee for this license shall be ten pesos per annum, payable in advance.

SEC. 7. It shall be unlawful for any vessel holding a pearling-boat license to employ