

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

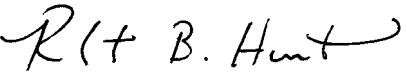
No. 1279

H.P. 854

House of Representatives, March 25, 2025

An Act to Require the Department of Marine Resources to Conduct Biotxin Testing of Cultured Scallops

Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and
Representatives: HEPLER of Woolwich, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, STROUT of Harrington,
WEBB of Durham, Senator: RENY of Lincoln.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6089 is enacted to read:

§6089. Scallop biotoxin testing

1. Scallop biotoxin testing. As part of the Marine Shellfish Toxins Monitoring Program under section 6076, the department shall conduct testing of cultured scallops for biotoxins in the same manner as the testing for other cultured mollusks under the program, including using high-performance liquid chromatography testing. The department shall provide logistical support to a commercial fisheries business engaged in scallop aquaculture in conducting the testing under this section, including providing transportation of samples to be tested. For purposes of this section, "high-performance liquid chromatography testing" means a testing technique in analytical chemistry that uses high-pressure pumps to separate, identify and quantify specific components in mixtures.

2. Funding. The department shall carry out the purposes of this section through appropriations, allocations, federal grants, donations from public or private sources or a partnership with an organization having the purpose of supporting marine aquaculture. Funds received under this subsection must be used for biotoxin testing and logistical support for commercial fisheries businesses under subsection 1.

3. Report. By January 1st of each year, the department shall submit an annual report detailing the number of commercial fisheries businesses using the testing under this section, the overall impact on the scallop aquaculture industry, including economic growth and cultured scallops landings, and recommendations for further improvements or expansions of the testing under this section to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters.

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Marine Resources to conduct biotoxin testing of cultured scallops under the Marine Shellfish Toxins Monitoring Program. Testing requirements include using high-performance liquid chromatography testing and providing logistical support to commercial fisheries businesses engaged in scallop aquaculture, including providing transportation of samples for testing. Funds received by the department for the testing may be used only for biotoxin testing of cultured scallops, and the department is required to submit an annual report on the testing to the Legislature by January 1st of each year.