

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 348

H. P. 266

House of Representatives, January 20, 1965

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Kittredge of So. Thomaston and Mr. Lowery of Brunswick, jointly.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

RESOLVE, Providing Funds for a Pilot Research Project to Study Means of Increasing Lobster Supply.

Funds for lobster research. Resolved: That there is appropriated to the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries the sum of \$5,000 from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund; said amount to be matched by Federal Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act funds in the amount of \$15,000 for the purpose of establishing a pilot research project of one year's duration to investigate means of increasing the supply of lobsters in Maine, with the provision that said project will employ no more than one highly qualified biologist who is to conduct his study independently in the Port Clyde area. The breakdown shall be as follows:

		1965-1966
SEA AND SHORE FISHERIES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personal Services	(1)	\$2,000
All Other		3,000
		<hr/>
		\$5,000

Any unexpended balance shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account until June 30, 1967.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The lobster fishery is the 7th most important fishery in the United States. Lobster caught in Maine coastal waters during 1963 brought over \$12,000,000 into the State.

The lobster industry today is governed primarily by supply. The potential market for Maine lobsters is 180,000,000 Americans. A scientific breakthrough in increasing the supply of lobsters, with its resulting economic benefit to Maine lobstermen, is most logically to be achieved through research. The fertility of the female lobster, 10,000 to 60,000 eggs per female, coupled with the fact that less than 1% of these eggs reach maturity, indicates that research for methods of increasing the supply of lobsters is highly desirable.

Port Clyde was chosen because of its close proximity to Monhegan, Port Clyde Packing Company and the City of Rockland.