MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document   **No. 1462**

H. P. 1127   House of Representatives, March 14, 1973
   On motion of Mr. Tyndale of Kennebunkport. Referred to the Committee
on Education. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.
                                               E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk
   Presented by Mr. Curtis of Orono.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Providing for Marine Resource Education by Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries.

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

Sec. 1.   R. S., T. 12, § 3451, sub-§ 1, amended.   Subsection 1 of section 3451
of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 337
of the public laws of 1967, is further amended to read as follows:

1.   Purposes of department.   The department, as heretofore established, is
for the purpose of conserving marine life, for the purpose of scientific re-
search, promotion and development of the Maine coastal fishery industry,
for the purpose of marine resource education and for the purpose of imple-
menting, administering and enforcing the laws of this State relating to sea
and shore fisheries.

Sec. 2.   Appropriation.   There is appropriated to the Department of Sea
and Shore Fisheries from the General Fund the sum of $47,000 to carry
out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74		1974-75
SEA AND SHORE FISHERIES, DEPARTMENT OF			
Personal Services (2)	$15,000	(2)	$22,000
All Other	5,000		5,000
	$20,000		$27,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

   The purpose of this bill is to restore a service which was formerly provided
by the Maine Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries to the coastal schools

to promote the study of marine resources. The program was successful but, not being included in the purposes of the department, it lacked continuity of funding.

Research personnel of the department wrote a series of "mini-courses" on the life history and commercial use of marine resources, such as lobsters, clams, marine worms, scallops, and several species of fish. These materials were developed some years ago and now need to be updated. Each "mini-course", suitable for use by schools, includes information on the biology of the species, experiments, wise commercial use and environmental impact, a bibliography and teacher aids.

The materials need to be updated, printed in a suitable format and distributed to the schools. The personnel authorized by this legislation would revise the materials, aid school administrators and teachers in determining wise use for each school and otherwise promote the study of the Maine coastal environment and resources in Maine schools. Located in the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries, they would be able to keep up to date with research developments and coordinate their extension efforts.

Marine species are good for illustration of biological fundementals and it is important that the public be well informed about the various species, especially the commercially valuable ones, because of the economic significance of these species to present and future fishermen, lobstermen, clam diggers and others who earn a living on the coast. A solid understanding of our own environment and the special dangers to species will be critical to men and women who may earn their living from marine resources.

In implementing the law, the personnel to be authorized in the Department of Sea and Shore Fisheries would work closely with other governmental and private organizations, including the Department of Educational and Cultural Services, the Extension Service of the University of Maine and the University's Darling Center, the several Vocational-Technical Institutes, 4-H clubs and other organizations which are concerned.