

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 735

S. P. 222

In Senate, February 21, 1975

Referred to Committee on Marine Resources. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Curtis of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Provide for Marine Resource Education by the Department
of Marine Resources.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 3451, 2nd ¶, as last repealed and replaced by P. L. 1973, c. 513, § 3, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The department is established for the purpose of conserving marine life, for the purpose of scientific research, promotion and development of the Maine coastal fishery industry, for the purpose of marine resource education and for the purpose of implementing, administering and enforcing the laws of this State relating to marine resources, under the direction of a Commissioner of Marine Resources appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Council, who shall serve a term coterminous with that of the Governor and until his successor is appointed and qualified.

Sec. 2. **Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Marine Resources the sum of \$47,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1975-76	1976-77
MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personal Services	(2) \$15,000	(2) \$22,000
All Other	5,000	5,000
Total	\$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 Marine Resources 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 Marine Resources, 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 fundamentals 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 Marine Resources 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.