

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1552

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S. P. 441

In Senate, April 13, 1977

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

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary

Presented by Senator Chapman of Sagadahoc.

Cosponsor: Senator Curtis of Penobscot.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-SEVEN

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**AN ACT to Provide for Marine Resources Education by the Department of Marine Resources and to Establish a Marine Communication Center.**

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

**Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Marine Resources the sum of \$60,000 to carry out the purposes of the Revised Statutes, Title 12, sections 3451 and 3502-A, subsection 2. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1977-78	1978-79
MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF		
Personal Services	(3) \$15,000	(3) \$30,000
All Other	5,000	10,000
Total	\$20,000	\$40,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The dual purpose of this bill is to permit the department of Marine Resources to establish a marine communication center and to restore a service which was formerly provided by the Maine Department of Marine Resources

to the coastal schools and others concerned to promote the understanding of marine resources.

1. Communication center. Good communications are vital to fulfilling the statutory responsibilities of the department, among which are listed, "to conserve and develop marine and estuarine resources; to conduct and sponsor scientific research; to conduct educational programs and distribute information."

There is the need of having many people and specialized groups better informed about marine resources and their environment status, problems and potentials, so that the public support of programs, vital to Maine's future, can be assured.

Resource information must be collected, stored and made available to users. The various communication media can be used for effective presentation of facts to aid the commercial fisheries and provide for the wise utilization of our marine resources.

2. Education Program for Schools. The educational program was successful but it lacked continuity of funding.

In the 1950's and 1960's, 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. Each "mini-course," suitable for use by schools, includes information on the biology of the species, experiments, wise commercial utilization, environmental impact and 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 with other concerned institutions.

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, TRIGOM, high school vocational programs and the several vocational-technical institutes, 4-H clubs and other organizations which are concerned.