

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

(Filing No. H-725)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1564, L.D. 1778, Bill,
"AN ACT to Establish Regional Marine Resources Centers."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the
title and inserting in its place the following:

' Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do
not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless
enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it is vitally important that communications
between the fishing industry and the Department of Marine Resources
be improved,
in order to fully meet the challenge of the 200-mile limit; and

Whereas, coordination of the department's activities and
improvement of services to fishermen is also of great importance
to full utilization of Marine Resources; and

Whereas, implementation of these centers during this
summer is necessary to allow assessment of their operations
during this fall; and

Whereas, the implementation of the 200-mile limit makes
the next year a crucial period in which to improve the state's
fishing capacities; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §3507 is enacted to read:

§3507. Regional marine resources centers

The commissioner may establish up to 4 regional marine resources centers to serve the coastal areas of the State. The purpose of the centers shall be to provide the various services of the department directly to the fishing industry in a local office, and to improve communication between the industry and department. The centers may serve as the center for the activities of coastal wardens and marine extension agents assigned to the area. The centers may also issue any licenses authorized to be issued under chapters 415 and 417. The commissioner may lease or rent appropriate facilities for each center or enter into arrangements with state departments or agencies for the use of appropriate facilities. He may authorize the use of part of such facilities by other agencies of the State who are engaged in similar or complementary activities. The commissioner shall report to the Legislature, not later than January 1, 1978, on the Marine Resources Centers he has established and their operations.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the Genral Fund to the Department of Marine Resources the sum

of \$30,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act, and to the University of Maine the sum of \$30,000 to be used for TRIGOM.

1977-78

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Marine Resources Centers

All Other \$30,000

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

Educational and General Activities

TRIGOM

All Other \$30,000

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when approved.¹

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to reallocate the money appropriated for 1977-78. Instead of entirely discontinuing the TRIGOM appropriation, half of that appropriation will continue to be appropriated for this year to TRIGOM, to allow the phasing out of the TRIGOM appropriation. TRIGOM is to use these funds to continue their work on environmental data files, including the ENDEX program, and to aid in the establishing of a State Marine Affairs Council.

The other half of the appropriation will be used to begin establishing the Marine Resources Centers.

Reported by the Majority of the Committee on Marine Resources.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

6/20/77

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