

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 945

S. P. 315

In Senate, March 5, 1979

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

Presented by Senator Chapman of Sagadahoc.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Establish a Marine Worm Council.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 6024-A is enacted to read:

§ 6024-A. Marine Worm Advisory Council

1. Appointment; composition; term; compensation. The Marine Worm Advisory Council shall consist of 15 members. Each member shall be appointed by the commissioner, from nominations received from any holder of a marine worm digger's license or marine worm dealer's license. The composition of the council shall be 2 holders of a marine worm dealer's license and 3 holders of a marine worm digger's license from each of these counties: Lincoln, Hancock and Washington. All members shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except a vacancy shall be filled by the commissioner, for the unexpired portion of the term. Members shall serve until their successors are appointed. Members shall be reimbursed for actual expenses. The total expenses of the council shall not exceed \$5,000 in any year. All expenses shall be paid from the Marine Worm Fund.

2. Powers and duties; meeting; officers. The council shall give the commission information and advice concerning departmental activities relating to marine worms, and the conservation, propagation, research and management of marine worms. The council shall hold regular quarterly meetings with the

commissioner, or his designee, and may hold special meetings at any time. The council shall elect one of its members as chairman, one as vice-chairman and one as secretary, all for a term of one year, at the first regular meeting in each year. The officers shall have the following duties.

A. The chairman shall call and preside at all meetings of the council.

B. The vice-chairman shall call and preside at all meetings of the council in the chairman's absence.

C. The secretary shall cause records to be taken and to be preserved of all meetings of the council.

3. **Quorum.** A quorum shall be a majority of the current members of the council.

4. **Council actions.** An affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting or polled shall be required for any action. No action may be considered unless a quorum is present or, if there is no meeting, a quorum responds to a written poll.

5. **Disbursements from Marine Worm Fund.** The council shall review and approve all departmental research on marine worms or all expenditures from the Marine Worm Fund.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA § 6791, sub-§ 2, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 661, § 5, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

The commissioner may also pay the expenses of the Marine Worm Advisory Council from the fund. All expenditures from the fund shall be reviewed and approved by the Marine Worm Advisory Council.

Sec. 3. Transition for appointments. Initial appointments to the Marine Worm Advisory Council shall be as follows: One dealer appointment from each county will be for 18 months and the other for 3 years; one digger appointment from each county shall be for one year, one for 2 years and one for 3 years. The terms of all these initial appointments shall begin to run as of January 1, 1980, even if these members are appointed and acting prior to that date.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill establishes a Marine Worm Advisory Council to advise the Department of Marine Resources on marine worm matters. The council will also have authority to approve all marine worm research and all expenditures from the Marine Worm Fund.