

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 11

H. P. 17

Office of the Clerk of the House

Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule  
24.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Fowlie of Rockland.

Cosponsor: Mr. Hanson of Kennebunkport.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

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AN ACT to Regulate the Taking of Mahogany Quahogs.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA § 6501, sub-§ 6-A is enacted to read:

6-A. Mahogany quahogs. For the purpose of this section, "fish" includes mahogany quahogs, *Artica icelandica*.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA § 6601, sub-§ 7 is enacted to read:

7. Mahogany quahogs. For the purpose of this section, "shellfish" does not include mahogany quahogs, *Artica icelandica*.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA § 6622, sub-§ 3 is enacted to read:

3. Mahogany quahogs. For the purpose of this section, "quahogs" does not include mahogany quahogs, *Artica icelandica*.

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA § 6624, sub-§ 1, ¶ D, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 661, § 5, is amended to read:

D. "Quahogs" means a marine mollusk, ~~venus~~ *Mercenaria mercenaria*, commonly called hard shelled clams.

## STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill is intended to establish laws more appropriate for the developing mahogany quahog fishery, a species with good development potential but which is constrained by statutes improperly designed for that objective. By this action: The mahogany quahog (*Artica icelandica*) is specifically made subject to the commercial fishing license, Title 12, section 6501; is specifically exempted from the provisions of the shellfish license, Title 12, section 6601, and the quahog minimum size provisions, Title 12, section 6622.

It is intended that the mahogany quahog remain subject to the closed area provisions, Title 12, section 6621, the transportation provisions, Title 12, section 6855, and the sanitation and certification provisions, Title 12, section 6856.