

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 692

6
7 H.P. 489 House of Representatives, February 26, 1985
8 Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered
9 printed.

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Crowley of Stockton Springs.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Ruhlin of Brewer and Representative
Vose of Eastport.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Allow the Use of Lobster Fund Money
18 to Provide for Lobster Hatcheries.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6451, sub-§1, as amended by PL
23 1981, c. 480, §2, is further amended to read:

24 1. Allocation of license fees. Ten dollars of
25 each \$33 fee and \$5 of each \$13 fee for each lobster
26 and crab fishing license shall be allocated to the
27 Lobster Fund, which shall be used for the purpose of
28 propagation of lobsters by liberating seed and female
29 lobsters in Maine coastal waters and establishing and
30 supporting lobster hatcheries. The commissioner
31 shall give priority in the use of the fund as fol-
32 lows:

33 A. Purchase of seed lobster;

34 B. Support of lobster hatcheries; and

1 C. Purchase of female lobsters.

2 Economic feasibility shall be considered when evalu-
3 ating any and all uses of the fund. A report of the
4 cost of administering this program, the number of
5 lobsters purchased, whether seeded or female, and
6 their disposition shall be made by the commissioner
7 to the Legislature by January 31st of each year.

8 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6451, sub-§3, as enacted by PL
9 1977, c. 661, §5, is amended to read:

10 3. Liberation and v-notching. The commissioner
11 shall liberate these lobsters in the coastal waters
12 after v-notching them in the right flipper. The com-
13 missioner shall provide to lobster hatcheries those
14 available and purchased seed lobsters necessary to
15 the operation of the hatcheries. The remaining seed
16 lobsters and all female lobsters shall be liberated
17 in the coastal waters after v-notching them in the
18 right flipper. The right flipper shall be determined
19 as established under section 6436, subsection 1.

20 Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6451, sub-§4-A is enacted to
21 read:

22 4-A. Lobster hatcheries. The commissioner may
23 authorize expenditure of the money in the Lobster
24 Fund for the purpose of making grants to qualified
25 persons who present proposals for operating lobster
26 hatcheries. This grant shall be used to defray all
27 or a portion of the cost of the salary of an individ-
28 ual to supervise and manage the hatcheries. The
29 grant shall be for a one-year period and is renewable
30 indefinitely upon successful application. In the
31 initial year, a grant shall be for one hatchery. In
32 subsequent years, a grant may be for more than one
33 hatchery. The amount of any grant shall depend on
34 the money available in the fund and the number of
35 qualified proposals received. The commissioner shall
36 develop rules, including criteria for evaluating ini-
37 tial proposals, and shall develop numeric goals for
38 evaluating each individual plant's operation as well
39 as the entire program. The commissioner shall submit
40 to the Legislature, by January 31st of each year, a
41 report on this program. Seed lobsters for those pro-
42 grams shall come from those purchased under subsec-
43 tion 1.

1 The commissioner may issue a permit for the holding
2 of egg-bearing lobsters to owners of lobster hatch-
3 eries. The commissioner shall adopt rules governing
4 the issuing of these permits and the conditions and
5 limitations under which these hatcheries may be oper-
6 ated.

7 All criteria, goals, rules and conditions referred to
8 in this section shall be developed with the advice of
9 the Lobster Advisory Council and the final documents
10 shall be submitted to the council for its recommenda-
11 tions before publication.

12 STATEMENT OF FACT

13 This bill is to allow the expenditure of Lobster
14 Fund money to aid in the management of privately-
15 owned lobster hatcheries.

16 Individuals are interested in beginning operation
17 of lobster hatcheries. The hatcheries provide a re-
18 ceiving station for lobsters to drop their larvae in
19 a protected environment. The larvae would be fed
20 and raised to the 4th stage. This is the stage at
21 which lobsters begin to seek the bottom and will oc-
22 cur in the hatchery in 15 to 20 days. Those propos-
23 ing these hatcheries estimate the survival rate in
24 the hatchery to the 4th stage to be about 70%. At
25 this point, the lobsters would be released in state
26 coastal waters. The proposers have no estimate of
27 their survival from this point on.

28 The Lobster Fund is supported by lobster license
29 fees. It is currently to be used for the department
30 to purchase seed and female lobsters which are then
31 liberated. Those who wish to operate these hatch-
32 eries feel that the facilities meet the objective of
33 the Lobster Fund to propogate lobsters. The Lobster

1 Fund can share in the costs of the operation of these
2 hatcheries by making grants for the supervision and
3 management of these hatcheries.

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