

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 SECOND REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1904

6
7 H.P. 1360

House of Representatives, January 17, 1986

8 Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council
pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

9 Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered
10 printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Mitchell of Freeport.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Coles of Harpswell, Representative
Dillenback of Cumberland and Senator Stover of Sagadahoc.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT Concerning a Mussel Dragging Season.
18

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

21 12 MRSA §6621-A is enacted to read:

22 §6621-A. Mussel seasons

23 It is unlawful to fish for or take mussels by any
24 means during the period from May 1st to July 15th. It
25 is unlawful to take mussels by dragging during the
26 period from July 15th to November 1st, except for the
27 purpose of transplanting mussels taken from the
28 intertidal zone. The commissioner may extend, by
29 rule, the closed season to conserve the mussel stocks
30 or to mitigate gear conflict problems.

1

STATEMENT OF FACT

2 This bill establishes seasons for musselling.
3 Over the last 10 years, a rapidly growing market for
4 mussels has developed in this State. This has re-
5 sulted in substantial economic benefit to the State
6 through the harvesting of wild mussels and mussel
7 aquaculture. There is growing concern that, without
8 active management, the mussel resource outside of
9 aquacultural leases may be seriously depleted. Since
10 traditional harvesters rely on this resource for
11 their livelihood and aquaculturalists rely on it as a
12 source of seed stock, depletion of the resource will
13 have serious implications for the new industry.

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