

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

NO. 85
6

7 H.P. 82 House of Representatives, January 26, 1987
8 Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested
and ordered printed.

9 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative Vose of Eastport.

10 Cosponsored by Senator Randall of Washington and
Representative Crowley of Stockton Springs.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Strengthen the Lobster Hatchery
18 Program.
19

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

22 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6451, sub-§6, as enacted by PL
23 1985, c. 237, §3, is amended to read:

24 6. Lobster hatcheries. The commissioner may au-
25 thorize expenditure of money from the Lobster Fund to
26 make grants in support of the establishment and oper-
27 ation of lobster hatcheries. The grant may be used
28 to defray a portion, ~~not to exceed~~ 50% up to 100%, of
29 the cost of the salary of an individual salaries of
30 personnel to supervise, operate and manage the hatch-
31 ery and to pay for equipment, maintainance and direct
32 operating expenses including, but not limited to,
33 power and lobster feed. The grant shall be for a

1 one-year period and shall be renewable indefinitely
2 indefinitely upon successful reapplication. There
3 shall be no more than 5 lobster hatcheries supported
4 under this section. If money from the Lobster Fund
5 is insufficient to support the applications qualify-
6 ing under the terms of this subsection, the commis-
7 sioner shall submit to the Legislature a request for
8 an appropriation from the General Fund for the addi-
9 tional money necessary. The commissioner shall de-
10 velop rules, including biological and economic crite-
11 ria for evaluating proposals. The commissioner shall
12 require the grantee to keep a log of activities re-
13 garding the hatchery and shall require a written re-
14 port at the termination of each grant.

15 Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are
16 appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the
17 purposes of this Act.

18		<u>1987-88</u>	<u>1988-89</u>
19	MARINE RESOURCES,		
20	DEPARTMENT OF		
21	All Other	\$20,000	\$20,000

22 STATEMENT OF FACT

23 The purpose of this bill is to increase the level
24 of financial support the commissioner may provide to
25 lobster hatchery projects. The bill also establishes
26 the intent of the Legislature to provide money from
27 the General Fund for qualifying hatcheries when the
28 Lobster Fund is insufficient.

29 The lobster fishery is the single most valuable
30 component of the fishing industry and is of key im-
31 portance to the tourist industry and the economies of
32 many small coastal towns. In contrast to many other
33 industries, the State invests virtually none of its
34 general revenues in the lobster industry. The indus-
35 try, through license fees in the Lobster Fund, pro-
36 vides virtually all state-level funding directly rel-
37 evant to lobster conservation efforts.

1 Lobster hatchery programs are a promising avenue
2 for stabilizing the lobster resource. The State cur-
3 rently assists towns or private groups in the estab-
4 lishment and operation of lobster hatcheries. Fund-
5 ing is supplied by the industry-supported Lobster
6 Fund. The Lobster Fund is too small to adequately
7 support the hatchery program and the other activities
8 mandated by the Legislature.

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