

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 815, L.D. 1169, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Shellfish Laws"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'12 MRSA §6681, sub-§§1 and 3, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 838, §6, are amended to read:

1. Purpose. The Legislature finds that the conservation and wise use of the State's shellfish resource may be enhanced by a ~~2-inch~~ 1 3/4-inch minimum size limit on possession of soft-shell clam shell stock in combination with other management programs.

The Legislature further finds that management programs should be designed to meet local circumstances as appropriate, but also finds that a minimum size limit to be beneficial must be a uniform standard statewide.

The Legislature intends by this Article to enhance the value of the State's shellfish resource by the institution of uniform standards which can be implemented and enforced statewide.

3. Minimum size. It is unlawful to possess soft-shelled clam shell stock whose shells are less than 2 1 3/4 inches in the largest diameter.'

STATEMENT OF FACT

This is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. This amendment strikes the requirement in the bill that clams be tagged at the time they are taken, strikes the reduction of the tolerance level and strikes the requirement that the Commissioner of Marine Resources adopt rules. The amendment retains the provision of the original bill that reduces the minimum legal size of soft-shelled clams from 2 inches to 1 3/4 inches.

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