



115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1991

Legislative Document

No. 1183

S.P. 439

In Senate, March 21, 1991

Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 24. Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VOSE of Washington Cosponsored by Senator GOULD of Waldo, Representative MITCHELL of Freeport and Representative FARREN of Cherryfield.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act Regarding the Relaying of Shellfish.

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

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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6621, sub-§3, ¶B, as amended by PL 1989, c. 257, §1, is further amended to read:

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B. Shellfish kept or washed in waters sterilized with a system that has been approved in writing by the commissioner, provided that the waters are also approved for that use; er

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6621, sub-§3, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 257, §2, is amended to read:

C. Municipal officials, with express written authorization from the commissioner, who are engaging in activities authorized under section 6671. Requests for exception shall <u>must</u> be submitted to the commissioner in writing stating the activities proposed and the name of the person designated by the municipal officials to supervise those activities. In addition, the municipality shall, at least 24 hours prior to engaging in the activity, notify the department of the time or times the activity authorized under this paragraph will be conducted.; or

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6621, sub-§3, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. The harvesting of shellfish from closed areas designated for purposes of relaying when harvesting is approved in writing by the commissioner consistent with regulations promulgated under section 6856.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Presently, the Department of Marine Resources allows the 36 relaying of shellfish from closed or restricted areas to approved conditionally approved or areas for the purposés of 38 self-purification. In order to prevent the illegal harvest of shellfish from the relay area, the department has utilized the 40 commissioner's powers under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6172. This bill eliminates the need for the 42 time-consuming steps required under Title 12, section 6172, by allowing the harvesting of shellfish from closed areas designated for the purposes of relaying only upon written approval by the 44 Commissioner of Marine Resources.