

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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115th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-1992

Legislative Document

No. 2083

H.P. 1471

House of Representatives, January 7, 1992

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.
Reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Pert".

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative TOWNSEND of Eastport.

Cosponsored by Senator VOSE of Washington and Representative FARREN of Cherryfield.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act Concerning the Stocking of Atlantic Salmon in Maine Rivers.

(EMERGENCY)



2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

4 Whereas, the stocking program authorized in this legislation
6 requires rulemaking before the program may be implemented; and

8 Whereas, preparation for the next fishing season must begin
well in advance of the 90-day period; and

10 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
12 create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
14 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

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

18 **12 MRSA §7675** is enacted to read:

20 **§7675. Aquaculture stock**

22 **1. Acceptance of stock.** The department shall accept salmon
24 stock that are offered at no charge from commercial aquaculture
hatcheries for release into state rivers subject to rules
26 developed by the department.

28 **2. Rules.** The department shall adopt rules to implement
this section. They must, at a minimum:

30 **A. Ensure that no negative impact on existing gene pools
32 results from the release of aquaculturally raised salmon;**

34 **B. Prohibit introduction of exotic species from the release
of aquaculturally raised salmon;**

36 **C. Establish stock disease testing and monitoring
38 procedures; and**

40 **D. Establish maximum stocking levels in state rivers.
42 Notwithstanding subsection 1, the department is not required
to accept salmon stock if maximum stocking levels are
44 achieved, as long as those levels are maintained.**

46 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

48 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

50 This bill provides for the stocking of Maine rivers using
52 salmon stock raised by means of commercial aquaculture. The

2 Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall adopt rules to
carry out the stocking program to ensure, among other things,
4 that the existing gene pools will not suffer any negative impact
as a result of the stocking and that maximum stocking levels in
rivers are not exceeded.