

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

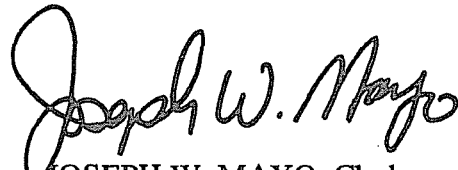
No. 354

H.P. 276

House of Representatives, February 8, 1993

An Act to Protect the Health of Anglers.

Reference to the Committee on Human Resources suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative WENTWORTH of Arundel.
Cosponsored by Representative TREAT of Gardiner and
Representatives: GEAN of Alfred, ROTONDI of Athens, Senator: PARADIS of Aroostook.

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

4 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1696-I is enacted to read:

6 §1696-I. Sport fishing and public health annual report

8 On or before January 15th each year, the Director of the
10 Bureau of Health shall report directly to the joint standing
12 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural
14 resources matters regarding any health threats to persons
16 consuming freshwater and anadromous fish caught in state waters.

18 1. Content of report. On the basis of available
20 information, the Director of the Bureau of Health shall assess
22 all forms of threat to public health posed by the consumption of
24 fish caught in state waters by persons licensed under Title 12,
26 section 7151, including, but not limited to, carcinogenic,
28 mutagenic, teratogenic and reproductive effects and infectious
30 disease. In preparing the report, the director shall consult
32 with the Commissioner of Marine Resources, the Commissioner of
34 Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries
36 and Wildlife.

38 2. Advisories. In the professional judgment of the
40 Director of the Bureau of Health, if conditions exist in which
42 consumption of fish caught in state waters poses a threat to
44 public health, the director shall prepare an advisory of the
46 public health threat. The advisory must be in a form suitable
48 for posting in places frequented by sport anglers, included in
50 the abstract of fish and wildlife laws prepared under Title 12,
52 section 7034, subsection 5 and distributed to all holders of
sport fishing licenses. The advisory must be included in the
report under subsection 1. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries
and Wildlife is responsible for printing and posting verbatim
copies of the advisory and for incorporating the verbatim health
advisory in the abstract of fish and wildlife laws.

3. Early release prohibited. Prior to release of the final
report to the committee, the Director of the Bureau of Health may
not release any draft, memo, summary or other information, that
embodies the content of the report or the advisory under this
section to any person not employed within the Bureau of Health.

44 STATEMENT OF FACT

46 This bill requires the Director of the Bureau of Health to
48 prepare an annual assessment of any health risks posed to persons
50 who eat sport fish caught in state waters. The director is
52 required to prepare any necessary health advisories concerning
consumption of sport fish and submit a report to the
Legislature. The Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

is responsible for printing verbatim and distributing the health
2 advisory in a form for posting. A verbatim copy of the advisory
must be included in the abstract prepared by the commissioner for
4 all sport fishing license holders.