

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DATE: 3/13/96

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
117TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 137, L.D. 185, Bill, "An Act to Restrict the Taking of Eels Less than 6 Inches in Length from Maine Coastal Waters"

Amend the amendment in Part A in section 8 by striking out all of that part designated "~~§6505-B.~~" and inserting in its place the following:

'§6505-B. Elver gear fees

1. Elver fyke net and Sheldon eel trap fee. It is unlawful for a person to submerge in the coastal waters of the State an elver fyke or Sheldon eel trap to fish for or take elvers unless the net or trap owner pays a fee of \$50 for each net or trap.

2. Tags for elver fyke net and Sheldon eel trap. It is unlawful for a person to submerge in the coastal waters of the State an elver fyke net or Sheldon eel trap to fish for or take elvers unless a tag issued by the department is affixed to the net. The department may issue a replacement tag when an owner issued a tag documents that a net or trap has been damaged or lost.

3. Dip net fee. It is unlawful for a person to utilize a dip net to fish for or take elvers unless the person pays a fee of \$50 for each net.

4. Payment with license. The fees required under subsections 1 and 3 must be paid upon application for an elver fishing license under section 6505-A.

5. Disposition of fees. All fees collected under this section accrue to the Eel and Elver Management Fund established in section 6505-D.'

FISCAL NOTE

By reducing the fees to be charged for elver gear, this amendment will reduce the annual dedicated revenue to be collected by the Department of Marine Resources by \$423,750. The Eel and Elver Management Fund will now be receiving annual dedicated revenues of \$372,645 beginning in fiscal year 1995-96.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This House amendment reduces the fees in the committee amendment for elver fyke nets, Sheldon eel traps and dip nets that are used to harvest elvers. It sets a \$50 fee for each net or trap used to harvest elvers.

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