

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

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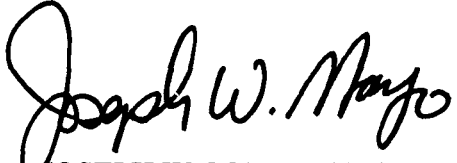
H.P. 137

House of Representatives, January 20, 1995

**An Act to Restrict the Taking of Eels Less than 6 Inches in Length from
Maine Coastal Waters.**

(EMERGENCY)

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative HEINO of Boothbay.
Cosponsored by Representatives: LEMONT of Kittery, RICE of South Bristol, Senator:
HALL of Piscataquis.

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

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6 **Whereas,** a significant fishery for baby eels, or elvers, has
developed in the coastal estuaries of the State; and

8 **Whereas,** the harvesting of these elvers may have a serious
negative impact on the present commercial fishery for larger
10 American eels in the waters of the State; and

12 **Whereas,** it appears that the American eel resource of this
State is significantly more valuable when elvers are allowed to
14 grow to 6 inches or more in length; and

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

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

24 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7175** is enacted to read:

26 **§7175. Prohibited acts relating to eel**

28 **1. Illegal possession.** If a person takes by any means,
30 possesses or sells American eel that is less than 6 inches in
length from territorial waters, including fresh waters of the
32 State, that person is guilty of illegal possession of eel.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill regulates the taking of eels by making it illegal
to possess eel that is less than 6 inches in length.

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