MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 991

S.P. 365

In Senate, March 28, 1995

Resolve, to Strengthen Fish Hatchery Capacity within the State by Establishing a Partnership between Public and Private Organizations.

(EMERGENCY)

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

MAY M. ROSS Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock. Cosponsored by Representatives: BIGL of Bucksport, CLOUTIER of South Portland, RICE of South Bristol. Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, State fish hatcheries are in need of additional resources to enhance their operation; and

Whereas, a significant private sector fish hatchery capacity has been developed in the State in support of Maine's finfish aquaculture industry; and

Whereas, both State and private fish hatcheries are expected to operate within strict environmental protection parameters; and

Whereas, environmental protection standards differ for state and private fish hatcheries operating in Maine; and

Whereas, there is an urgent need for the Commissioner of Marine Resources and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to begin to meet with interested parties to strengthen fish hatchery capacity within the State; and

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

Sec. 1. Investigation. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources shall enter into discussions that include other interested parties to investigate and pursue opportunities for creating a partnership of public and private organizations for the efficient operation of state fishery restoration programs for inland and coastal waters; and be it further

Sec. 2. Salmonid fish health guidelines. Resolved: That the commissioners shall examine the appropriateness of the New England Salmonid Fish Health Guidelines in relationship to providing the greatest opportunities for the public and private raising of salmon and trout; and be it further

Sec. 3. Water quality. Resolved: That the commissioners shall review and make any appropriate recommendations for change to the classification of receiving waters and water quality discharge standards affecting public and private fish hatcheries; and be it further

Sec. 4. Report. Resolved: That the commissioners shall report their recommendations on these issues and policies to the 117th Legislature by June 30, 1995.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This resolve requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources to investigate opportunities for partnerships between public and private organizations in the operation of fishery restoration programs, examine opportunities for increased raising of salmon and trout and make recommendations regarding water quality affecting fish hatcheries. The commissioners are required to report to the Legislature by June 30, 1995.