

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 1017

H.P. 743

House of Representatives, March 28, 1995

An Act to Prohibit the Taking of Soft-shell Clams on Sunday and at Night.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative HARTNETT of Freeport. (By Request)

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

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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6681, sub-§§1 and 3, as enacted by PL 1983, c. 838, §6, are amended to read:

1. **Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the conservation and wise use of the State's shellfish resource may be enhanced by a 2-inch minimum size limit on possession of soft-shell clam shell stock and a limitation on the times when soft-shell clams may be harvested in combination with other management programs.

The Legislature further finds that management programs should be designed to meet local circumstances as appropriate, but also finds that a minimum size limit, as well as time restrictions on soft-shell clam harvesting, to be beneficial must be a uniform standard statewide.

The Legislature intends by this Article to enhance the value of the State's shellfish resource by the institution of uniform standards which that can be implemented and enforced statewide.

3. **Minimum size; time restriction.** It is unlawful to possess soft-shelled clam shell stock whose shells are less than 2 inches in the largest diameter.

It is unlawful to harvest any soft-shell clams from 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise and on Sundays.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill prohibits the harvesting of soft-shell clams from 30 minutes before sunset to 30 minutes after sunrise and at all times on Sundays.