

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

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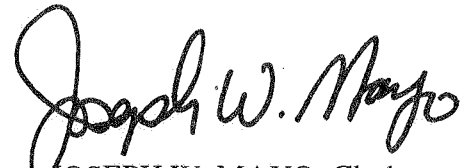
H.P. 501

House of Representatives, February 4, 1997

**An Act Concerning the Importation of Marine Organisms That May Be Dangerous to Indigenous Marine Life or Its Environment.**

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Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

  
JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ETNIER of Harpswell.  
Cosponsored by Senator MacKINNON of York and  
Representatives: HONEY of Boothbay, PINKHAM of Lamoine.

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

2  
4 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6071-A is enacted to read:

6 §6071-A. Importing of infected marine organisms

8 1. Regulation of dangerous organisms. The commissioner may  
10 adopt or amend rules governing the importation and introduction  
12 of organisms and the issuance of permits to the extent required  
14 to prevent the introduction of any bacteria, fungus, virus or  
16 other infectious or contagious disease or parasite, predator or  
18 other organism that may be dangerous to indigenous marine life or  
20 its environment.

22 2. Diseased marine organisms. The commissioner or the  
24 commissioner's agent may indefinitely embargo, condemn or order  
26 destroyed any indigenous or imported marine organism or marine  
28 organism product, if that organism or product is intended for  
30 introduction to coastal waters or if handling of the product  
32 could result in the introduction to coastal waters, whenever it  
34 is determined that the organism is diseased or otherwise in a  
36 condition that, if introduced to the coastal waters of the State,  
38 could endanger indigenous marine life or its environment. The  
40 commissioner may adopt rules to prevent the importation of a  
42 marine organism if it is determined that the source of that  
44 marine organism is infected in any manner.

46 If any marine organism or marine organism product is embargoed,  
48 condemned or ordered destroyed, the commissioner or the  
50 commissioner's agent, as soon as practical, shall notify the  
52 owner in writing of the amount and kind of marine organism or  
54 marine organism product embargoed, condemned or destroyed.

56 3. Minor technical rules. Rules adopted pursuant to this  
58 section are minor technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter  
60 375, subchapter II-A.

62 SUMMARY

64 The Commissioner of Marine Resources has the authority to  
66 embargo, condemn or order destroyed any marine product that is  
68 unsafe for human consumption. This bill allows the commissioner  
70 to embargo, condemn or order destroyed any marine organism or  
72 marine organism product when it is determined that the product is  
74 infected by any organism that may endanger indigenous marine life  
76 or its environment.