

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1171

S.P. 392

In Senate, February 9, 1999

An Act to Provide for Management of the Harvest of Seaweed.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien", is positioned to the right of the reference text.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6803, sub-§3, as amended by PL 1991, c. 591, Pt. T, §13, is further amended to read:

3. Fees. The fee schedule for seaweed permits is as follows:

A. Ten ~~One hundred~~ dollars for a resident seaweed permit;

B. ~~Eighty-four~~ One hundred and fifty dollars for a nonresident seaweed permit; and

C. Three ~~Ten~~ dollars for a supplemental seaweed permit.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6803, sub-§4 is enacted to read:

4. Disposition of fees. All fees collected under this section accrue to the Seaweed Management Fund established in section 6804.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §§6804 and 6805 are enacted to read:

§6804. Seaweed Management Fund

1. Fund established. The Seaweed Management Fund, referred to in this section as the "fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing fund.

2. Permissible uses. The commissioner may use the fund in accordance with a plan required under subsection 3 to research and manage the State's seaweed resources and to enforce the laws and rules related to seaweed.

3. Plan required. Beginning in calendar year 2000, the commissioner shall by May 1st of each year present a plan for expenditures from the fund for the next fiscal year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resource matters. When developing the plan, the commissioner shall consult with harvesters and seaweed dealers.

§6805. Seaweed harvesting rules

The commissioner may adopt rules regulating the harvest of seaweed, including, but not limited to, the total number of licenses that may be issued, the designation of a harvesting season or seasons, the quantity of the resource that may be harvested in a season, areas that may be open or closed to harvest and gear and techniques that may be used in harvesting.

2 Rules adopted under this section are routine technical rules
3 pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

4
5 **SUMMARY**

6
7 This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to
8 adopt rules regulating the harvest of seaweed. The bill, by
9 increasing seaweed permit fees, also establishes the Seaweed
10 Management Fund to be used to research and manage seaweed
resources and to enforce laws and rules related to seaweed.