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1	L.D. 427
2	Date: 2/26/16 Majority (Filing No. H-531)
3	MARINE RESOURCES
4	Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
5	STATE OF MAINE
6	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
7	127TH LEGISLATURE
8	SECOND REGULAR SESSION
9 10	COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to H.P. 294, L.D. 427, Bill, "An Act To Address and Mitigate the Effects of Marine Debris"
11	Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:
12 13	'Resolve, Directing Certain State Agencies To Consider the Effects of Marine Debris'
14	Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:
15 16	'Preamble. Whereas, the ocean environment and its resources are vital to the economy, cultural identity and daily lives of many Maine citizens and communities; and
17 18	Whereas, coastal residents and communities in Maine depend on healthy and abundant ocean resources for their livelihoods, recreation and ways of life; and
19 20	Whereas, the oceans annually receive an estimated 4,800,000 to 12,700,000 metric tons of plastic waste; and
21 22	Whereas, there is a projected increase in the amount of plastic marine debris based on current production and consumption; and
23 24	Whereas, plastics of all sizes have been shown to adsorb micropollutants and organic contaminants in the environment; and
25 26 27 28	Whereas, large pieces of plastic, including plastics from recreational and commercial fishing, marine vessels and marine fishing gear, degrade into progressively smaller fragments through chemical and physical processes, eventually resulting in microscopic particles of plastic that remain in the environment indefinitely; and
29 30	Whereas, plastics are a recognized contaminant of concern that threatens wildlife and human health; and
31 32	Whereas, a wide range of organisms, from zooplankton to mussels to fish to baleen whales, are capable of ingesting contaminated microplastics; and

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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Whereas, consumption of contaminated species is thought to increase the potential for harm to human health from hazardous chemicals; and

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Whereas, Maine persons who fish commercially land approximately 305,500,000 pounds of seafood annually for human consumption and one study estimates European shellfish consumers consume between 1,800 and 11,000 microplastics per year; and

Whereas, marine debris can be large but difficult to see in the ocean if partially or totally submerged, and a vessel that encounters marine debris at sea can suffer costly damage, either to its structure or through a tangled propeller or clogged intake; and

Whereas, marine debris can be a vector for invasive species, which can have a devastating impact on local fisheries and ecosystems and can be costly to manage or eradicate; and

Whereas, increasing marine debris has the potential to threaten livelihoods and activities that have been at the core of Maine's coastal communities for hundreds of years; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. Department of Marine Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to consider the effects of marine debris. Resolved: That, until January 1, 2019, when the Department of Marine Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry takes any action, that department shall consider the marine debris that may be generated by that action, the effects of marine debris that may be generated by that action and how the potential marine debris may be managed and mitigated.'

SUMMARY

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, replaces the bill, which was a concept draft, with a resolve that directs the Department of Marine Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to consider the potential for the generation, management, mitigation and effects of marine debris related to actions of those agencies.

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