

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 1420

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H.P. 1033

House of Representatives, March 28, 2019

**Resolve, To Establish a Task Force To Study the Current Status and  
Future Sustainability of Aquaculture in the State**

(EMERGENCY)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.  
Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and  
Representatives: BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, HEPLER of  
Woolwich, HICKMAN of Winthrop, McDONALD of Stonington, RECKITT of South  
Portland, TUELL of East Machias, Senator: DOW of Lincoln.

1           **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not  
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3           **Whereas,** this resolve establishes the Task Force To Study the Current Status and  
4 Future Sustainability of Aquaculture in the State; and

5           **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that  
6 the initial report may be submitted by September 1, 2019 and the study may be completed  
7 and a final report submitted in time for submission to the next legislative session; and

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

12           **Sec. 1. Task force established. Resolved:** That the Task Force To Study the  
13 Current Status and Future Sustainability of Aquaculture in the State, referred to in this  
14 resolve as "the task force," is established.

15           **Sec. 2. Task force membership. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule  
16 353, the task force consists of 17 members appointed as follows:

17           1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a  
18 member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

19           2. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the  
20 House, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats  
21 in the Legislature;

22           3. Five members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:

23           A. One member representing a nonprofit organization with interest and experience in  
24 aquaculture;

25           B. One member representing the State of Maine Harbor Masters Association;

26           C. One member representing the lobster industry or other commercial fishery  
27 community;

28           D. One member representing a municipality with interest and experience in  
29 aquaculture; and

30           E. One member representing an aquaculture trade association or industry group;

31           4. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:

32           A. One member representing a nonprofit organization with interest and experience in  
33 aquaculture;

34           B. One member who is an experimental or standard aquaculture lease holder;

35           C. One member who is an aquaculture license holder;

- 1 D. One member representing the Maine Municipal Association; and
- 2 E. One member representing the University of Maine System; and
- 3 5. Three members appointed by the Governor as follows:
- 4 A. One member representing the Department of Marine Resources;
- 5 B. One member representing the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- 6 C. One member representing the Department of Economic and Community
- 7 Development.

8 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first-named Senate member is the Senate  
9 chair and the first-named House of Representatives member is the House chair of the task  
10 force.

11 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of task force. Resolved:** That all  
12 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this  
13 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative  
14 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,  
15 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the task force. If 30 days or more  
16 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been  
17 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority  
18 for the task force to meet and conduct its business.

19 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the task force shall meet at least 6 times and shall  
20 review the report from the Governor's Task Force on the Planning and Development of  
21 Marine Aquaculture in Maine dated January 30, 2004 and assess the status of the  
22 recommendations in that report. The task force shall also:

- 23 1. Assess the current status of aquaculture in the State, including the number, increase  
24 and distribution of leases and licenses;
- 25 2. Assess current production levels and production capacity;
- 26 3. Assess environmental effects and the carrying capacity of the coastal marine  
27 environment;
- 28 4. Identify aquaculture best practices;
- 29 5. Review relationships with other fisheries;
- 30 6. Identify current economic and workforce effects, including but not limited to  
31 diversification of the current workforce and workforce needs;
- 32 7. Identify future opportunities; and
- 33 8. Explore current and proposed community outreach and education.

