

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

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SENATE.

No. 188

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE for an Appropriation for the use of the Commissioner of Sea and Shore Fisheries.

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*Resolved*, That the sum of eight thousand dollars be and 2 is hereby appropriated for each of the years of 1895 and 3 1896, to be expended by the commissioner of sea and shore 4 fisheries, under the direction of the Governor and council.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

It is evident that for natural fishing advantages Maine surpasses every other State on the coast, and it should rank the highest of any State in the Union. While every other State on the sea-board is fostering and encouraging its fisheries, no matter how limited, it is a deplorable fact that the fishing industry of Maine is being sadly neglected. There seems now a greater interest awakening, and people in other business as well as legislators are beginning to realize that the State ought to pay more attention to its fisheries, it being one of its important industries. There is no branch of the fisheries fairly represented, and in fact, if the question was asked, what is the magnitude of the fishing business or how many of any one kind of fish has there been taken from the great sea or landed in our markets during the year, no one is prepared to answer, and no data of any reliability can be found to assist in solving this important problem, and yet there are millions of dollars employed in the industry, and fifteen thousand of our citizens obtain nearly their entire livelihood from it.

One reason why the fishing industry has not been kept to the front is on account of the indifference of the State in regard to proper appropriations and salary of the commissioner.

No argument is required to convince anyone that a State with 2140 miles of sea coast, with its numerous bays, islands and estuaries, that \$4000 is entirely inadequate to pay the expense to patrol the coast in a faithful and satisfactory manner, and that \$500 salary for a commissioner is a very small recompense for the duties, labor and responsibilities that should be borne by the commissioner of sea and shore fisheries.

If this Resolve be favorably acted upon it will do much towards furnishing and preparing statistics which are so essential in relation to the fishing industry. A larger appro-

priation than asked for would bring about better and more satisfactory results, but if the State will appropriate what is now requested we hope that it will be so wisely and judiciously expended that it will show beyond question that the appropriation was well placed and that an important and deserving business has been benefited. There is a great amount of work that ought to be done by the commissioner and most if not all of his time should be devoted to the fisheries.

The present commissioner is interested in the fisheries having been long associated with it, and if the State contributes its part we hope at the close of his term of office he will be able to present statistics so that every citizen of Maine can have an intelligent conception of the magnitude and importance of the fishing industry to the State.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, March 2, 1895.

Reported by Mr. NICKERSON, from Committee on Shore Fisheries,  
and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary.*