

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 227

House of Representatives, Feb. 13, 1913.

Tabled pending passage, by Mr. Plummer, and ordered printed.

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN.

RESOLUTION memorializing the Maine Congressional Delegation to favor legislation for the destruction of fish of the shark species, especially the Dogfish.

Whereas, An expensive investigation, made in the State of Massachusetts, in 1904 and 1905, showed conclusively that the dogfish were devouring the valuable food fishes of New England which furnish a large part of our national food supply. Moreover, the destruction of the fishermen's nets and trawls by sharks and dogfish materially lessened the annual catch of food fishes. This was proven beyond question by the testimony of hundreds of deep sea fishermen and by Dr. Field of the Massachusetts Food Commission. As a means of destruc-

tion of the dogfish and other members of the shark family, the fishermen and Dr. Field recommended a Federal Dogfish Bounty.

Whereas, A report of the Federal Bureau of Fishes showed that the dogfish mutilated or destroyed lobsters up to seven inches in length and that an enormous quantity of smaller lobsters and of small edible fish were eaten by them.

Whereas, It has been and is the practice to artificially hatch the lobster and other salt-water food fish that later mingle in the same coastal waters with the dogfish, and other members of the shark family which are destructive to said salt-water food fish, and

Whereas, In view of these facts above stated, and of the great value of the lobster and other salt-water food fish that are being destroyed by their natural enemies, the dogfish on the coast of New England, there is great necessity, as far as possible, of removing from these waters all members of the shark family.

Whereas, In view of the foregoing facts an issue has been created as regards the destruction of the dogfish and other members of the shark family by means of an appropriation furnished by the Federal Government for that purpose.

Therefore be it Resolved, That the Maine Legislature
2 favors the destruction of the dogfish and other members
3 of the shark species that are known to be preying on the
4 food fish in New England waters, and urges favorable con-
5 sideration of the petition already presented to Congress for

6 a Federal Bounty of not less than two cents per dogfish
7 or not less than eight dollars per ton to be paid to the
8 American fishermen and that the fertilizer therefrom pro-
9 duced at Federal Reduction Works be sold direct to the
10 American farmer at cost.

Resolved, The Senate and House concurring, that the
12 passage of such legislation will result in joint benefit to the
13 farmers and fishermen and ultimately to the consumers of
14 sea food. Therefore, the Legislature of Maine respectfully
15 requests the Maine Delegation in Congress to support the
16 pending Federal legislation for the elimination of dogfish
17 and said shark species by a Federal Bounty as indicated
18 above.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

RESOLUTIONS MEMORIALIZING THE MAINE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO FAVOR LEGISLATION FOR FIGHTING THE DOGFISH AND OTHER SHARK SPECIES.

Whereas, The State of Massachusetts by "state hearing" in 1904 and by a special 1905 Dogfish Report costing about \$5000 showed that the dogfish were devouring the valuable food fisheries of Massachusetts, Maine, New England, and our national sea food supply and reserve. Moreover, the destruction of the fishermen's gear, such as nets, trawls, etc., was also shown upon the testimony of over 500 practical deep sea fishermen, captains and owners of fishing vessels, and the Massachusetts Fish Commissioner, Dr. Field, all of whom stood for the elimination of these putrid sea seating sharks—by means of a Federal Dogfish Bounty.

Whereas, A "Federal Hearing" was held in the year 1906 and the Bureau of Fisheries did issue a report called a Federal Document No. 622, date 1907 (Bureau of Commerce and Labor), proving by the dissection of 388 dogfish that these sharks mutilated and devoured lobsters up to 7 inches in length beside valuable species of food fish and their food all of vast economic and commercial value.

Whereas, It has been the long continued practice to artificially hatch, nurse, and propagate little lobsters and salt-water food fish which are afterward mingled in the same coastal waters with these sharks (the dogfish), which devour both the lobsters and food fish artificially and naturally hatched.

Whereas, In view of these natural history facts on one hand and the great importance and the value of the lobsters and food fish destroyed by these sharks on the coast of Maine, including mackerel, herring, ground fish, etc., also the obvious necessity of removing the dogfish and other unutilized shark species from our fisheries on the other hand.

Whereas, In view of the foregoing facts an "issue" has been created of "Shall we fight or feed the dogfish and other sharks on Federal appropriations?" therefore be it

Resolved, That the Maine Legislature favors fighting the

dogfish and other shark species now proven to be long devouring the fisheries of Maine and other states of the United States, all constituting this nation's sea food supply and reserve.

Resolved, That in order that a successful warfare be waged against the dogfish and other shark species that the already petitioned for Federal Bounty of not less than 2 cents per dogfish or shark species, or less than \$8.00 per ton purchase price—be paid to the American fishermen and the fertilizer produced at Federal Reduction Works be sold direct to the American farmers at gross cost of production.

Resolved, That the passage of such legislation will be a joint benefit to the farmers, the fishermen and the ultimate consumers of land and sea food crops—therefore the Legislature of Maine hereby memorializes the Congressional Delegation in Congress to consider these Resolutions with favor and to support the pending Federal legislation for the elimination and utilization of the dogfish and said shark species by means of said Federal Bounty or purchase price—and said Federal Reduction Works—all of which have been petitioned for by Orr's Island, Maine, fishermen and the fishermen of other states from Eastport, Maine, to New Jersey since 1903, through the good offices of Congressmen Amos L. Allen and Charles Q. Tirrell (deceased), also Congressmen Greene and McNary of Massachusetts.