

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E V E N T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 542

H. P. 505

House of Representatives, February 8, 1955

Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Game, sent up for concurrence and 750 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Greenleaf of Boothbay Harbor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

RESOLVE, Providing Review of Shellfish and Marine Worm Law.

Review of shellfish and marine worm law; authorized. Resolved: That the Committee of Sea and Shore Fisheries be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to study the present laws relating to shellfish and marine worms of the State and of municipalities, and to make a written report to the next regular session of the Legislature such changes as may appear to be necessary or desirable to consolidate or repeal such laws and to eliminate contradictory provisions now found in the law; and be it further

Resolved: That, to implement this study the Committee of Sea and Shore Fisheries be authorized and directed to employ such technical and clerical assistance as may be necessary; and be it further

Resolved: That the Director of Legislative Research be, and hereby is, instructed to cooperate with the Committee of Sea and Shore Fisheries, in carrying out such study; and be it further

Resolved: That the sum of \$5,000 be appropriated from the general fund of the State and made available for this study, to employ competent secretarial services, to defray necessary travel and other expenses in the study of and preparation for such legislative report; and be it further

Resolved: That all members of the above-mentioned Committee not employees of the State shall be entitled to actual expenses for their services, when engaged in the official business of the Committee.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Legislative laws restrict the digging of clams and marine worms to residents only in most coastal communities.

Charges have been made that some of these laws are discriminatory and account for poor management of the resources. These parties claim that emphasis should be placed on area management rather than by closing any particular town to nonresident digging.

Immediate repeal of these laws has been advocated. On the other side of the picture, many municipalities feel that these laws safeguard the resource for the benefit of their own citizens; and a number of towns are now asking for additional laws of this type.

It would appear desirable for the Legislature to appraise the situation so that in future years they may be guided by findings of fact.