

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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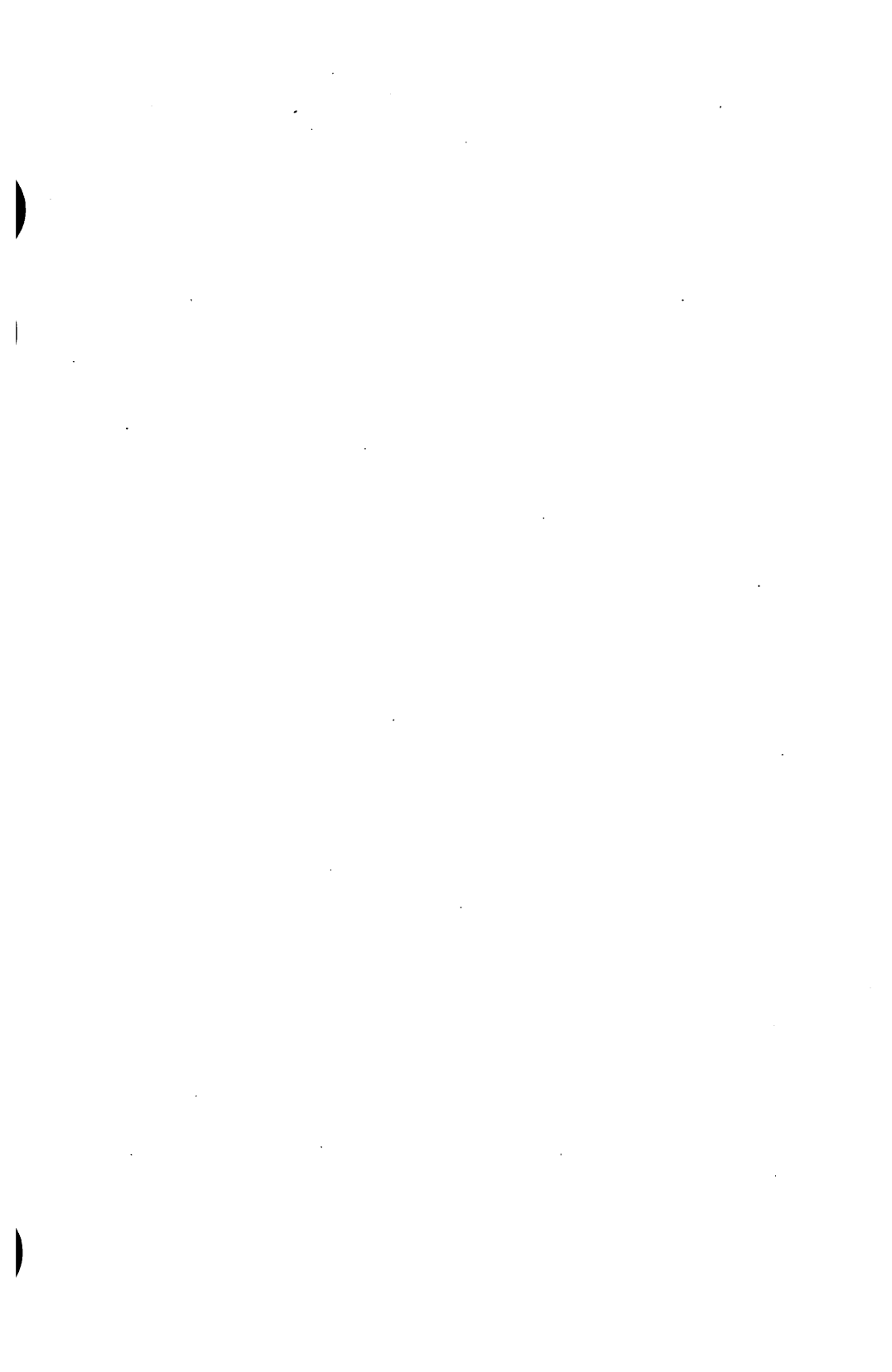
SEVENTH
BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

Commissioner of Sea and
Shore Fisheries

STATE OF MAINE

1932



RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 65 prohibiting the shipment of clams beyond the limits of the state from June 1st to Sept. 15th should be repealed so as to give the clam dealers, shippers and diggers the right to ship them throughout the year. If this is not done Canada will soon control the clam business because quantities of clams are being shipped to the States while the closed season is in force, thus depriving our Maine diggers of their markets and driving Maine dealers out of the state in order to hold their markets.

Section 65 G. of the clam law should be repealed and a new section enacted in place thereof, leaving out the word resale.

Section 65 H. should be amended by striking out all of said section and inserting in place thereof a new section dividing licenses into three classes: Licenses of the First Class, Sellers' Licenses; Licenses of the Second Class, Shippers' and Canners' Licenses; Licenses of the Third Class, Diggers' Licenses.

There should also be a law enacted requiring all fishermen to be licensed. If they were all licensed we would know exactly how many fishermen there were on the coast and the number in each class. They should be required when they renew their licenses to estimate as nearly as possible the number of pounds of fish caught, the price received for them and the cost of their equipment. Then we would have a complete record of our fishermen.

The tax on gasoline used in the engines of fishing boats should be repealed because the fisherman should not be compelled to help pay a tax to build roads that they cannot use in their boats.

Section 69, Lobsters with Eggs Attached should be repealed and a new section enacted in place thereof, changing the method of marking the lobsters after they have been purchased by the state from marking by punching a hole in the flipper of the tail to cutting a V shape (V) mark in the middle flipper of the tail.

Section 21, License Fees, should be amended by striking out the words, "three years" and inserting in place thereof, "ten years". Said change should be made because we have all the fishermen in Maine who can earn a living here and because the "Guineas", so called are trying to get a foothold in our state and if they should ever go into the lobster business our own native fishermen would be crowded out because they have no regard for laws and are generally persistent violators.

Section 73, Taking of Alewives in Damariscotta River Regulated, should be repealed because more alewives go into the stream when they are dipped by the town than they are able to sell. This being true I believe that the net fishermen should be allowed to take alewives, above the bridge and in the bay, prohibiting the taking of alewives in any way a reasonable distance from the railroad bridge, located in the town of Damariscotta Mills. This change in the law would allow the net fishermen to earn some real money in the spring when alewives are in demand and before the markets are flooded with alewives from other sections of the coast and before they enter the streams where they are taken by the town officials.

AMERICANS SHOULD BUY AMERICAN LOBSTERS

Few people seem to realize the hardships that the lobster fishermen have to endure even under normal conditions in order to pursue their daily vocation of lobster fishing.

During the winter months the men who are engaged in this particular work have to go many miles from their homes, work in icy water and take the weather as it comes. Oftentimes they go to their traps with the thermometer hovering around zero, then after their traps are hauled they sometimes have to make a ten mile run to their homes, with the ocean spray flying over them all the way and freezing wherever it strikes as their boats plow along through the waves. Such conditions are real hardships and while everyone is talking about helping the unemployed and doing everything they can to help them, let's not forget the lobster fishermen, because they surely need your help.

At this time they are receiving a very small price for their lobsters and still the consumer has to pay as much for lobsters as he did when the fishermen were able to earn a living wage. There is now and always has been too much difference in the price the producer receives and the price the consumer pays for lobsters. The retailer, the restaurant and the hotel men should follow the market and give the consumer the benefit of the low prices and depend on volume for their profit.

One might be led to believe by the letters that have been written that an advance of ten cents per pound on lobsters, which would give the fishermen a living wage, would put every hotel, and restaurant out of business. Such a statement is absurd because the hotels have paid in the past nearly double the present price for lobsters that they are paying to-day, and few, if any, have changed their price to the consumer since the advent

of cheap lobsters, when lobsters are so cheap that the fishermen cannot possibly exist on what they earn.

Some people would like to make the public believe that a cheap lobster that did not weigh more than a pound is an angel of mercy sent down from heaven to give the consuming public a cheap food, when in reality it is the devil in disguise so far as the producer and consumer are concerned.

Every person who sells lobsters caught in the coastal waters of the United States should emphasize that fact by placing a card in the window where he exhibits his product and I believe if every lobster could be tagged in some manner showing what state it was caught in that it would improve the sale of our high grade product. I also believe that a representative from every lobster producing section of the United States should meet annually at some central point and work out plans to improve conditions and to combat any obstacle that confronts them.

Every person should realize that he must spend his money for a native product in preference to a foreign product if we want to harbor prosperity.

OPERATING EXPENSES OF CATCHING LOBSTERS ALSO NUMBER OF POUNDS OF LOBSTERS
CAUGHT AND VALUE OF SAME FROM JULY 1, 1929 TO JULY 1, 1930

County	Lobsters Caught		Traps		Boats		Cars		Gasoline		Bait	
	No. Lbs.	Value	Number	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.Gals	Value	No. Bu.	Value
Cumberland	600,063	\$ 224,596.20	38,192	\$ 88,080	811	\$118,020	449	\$ 2,204	188,656	\$ 17,666.52	30,448	\$ 14,258.39
Hancock	1,563,901	478,549.26	93,979	167,805	1,135	231,924	405	10,016	194,576	47,357.00	57,643	43,004.61
Knox	1,578,809	1,882,227.58	89,149	207,495	206	201,655	520	7,540	179,739	52,117.36	70,268	44,078.05
Lincoln	500,755	180,098.86	46,080	81,862	596	72,491	520	7,443	59,966	13,729.51	28,087	10,043.34
Washington	1,210,010	369,706.31	91,911	134,944	1,080	189,750	361	7,017	253,042	50,608.40	54,048	27,349.85
York	452,025	100,539.13	17,794	46,150	352	55,340	159	1,215	34,182	7,713.01	14,358	8,126.44
Small Counties	135,005	57,800.24	8,848	17,607	261	28,013	147	562	18,685	4,481.40	8,686	3,542.01
Totals	6,040,568	\$3,293,516.58	385,953	\$743,943	4,441	\$897,193	2,561	\$35,997	928,846	\$ 93,673.20	263,538	\$150,402.69

OPERATING EXPENSES OF CATCHING LOBSTERS ALSO NUMBER OF POUNDS OF LOBSTERS
CAUGHT AND VALUE OF SAME FROM JULY 1, 1930 TO JULY 1, 1931

County	Lobsters Caught		Traps		Boats		Cars		Gasoline		Bait	
	No. Lbs.	Value	Number	Value	No.	Value	No.	Value	No.Gals	Value	No. Bu.	Value
Cumberland	714,416	\$ 181,659	20,535	\$ 64,524	635	\$ 92,419	381	\$ 2,219	79,945	\$ 17,228.94	31,198	\$ 14,967.90
Hancock	1,310,146	288,946	39,496	117,617	735	165,045	276	7,115	154,569	32,633.43	51,013	31,905.65
Knox	1,689,777	435,010	49,711	162,864	915	160,295	442	6,068	199,026	44,585.89	54,422	36,653.89
Lincoln	514,908	134,450	17,627	52,328	412	47,047	221	2,212	48,921	10,359.58	20,822	10,001.63
Washington	684,251	154,961	27,613	59,832	482	89,700	162	2,368	78,133	17,998.09	28,027	14,247.00
York	277,883	73,562	8,330	31,153	240	46,762	107	99	36,125	7,436.32	10,630	6,689.68
Small Counties	174,085	48,885	4,335	12,444	179	16,923	99	395	18,499	3,743.33	6,322	3,085.85
Totals	5,365,466	\$1,317,473	167,647	\$500,762	3,598	\$618,191	1,688	\$20,476	615,218	\$ 133,985.58	202,434	\$117,551.60

APPROXIMATE AMOUNT EXPENDED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF SEA AND SHORE
FISHERIES

JULY 1, 1930 TO JULY 1, 1931	
Salaries and Clerk Hire,	\$ 5,000.00
General Office Expenses,	3,747.91
Pay and Expenses of Wardens,	50,546.97
Purchase of Seed Lobsters,	17,270.83
Propagation of Shell Fish,	2,453.55

JULY 1, 1931 TO JULY 1, 1932	
Salaries and Clerk Hire,	\$ 5,999.41
General Office Expenses,	4,136.70
Pay and Expenses of Wardens,	53,063.20
Purchase of Seed Lobsters,	16,492.94
Propagation of Shell Fish,	1,008.45

APPROPRIATIONS ASKED FOR NEXT TWO YEARS

	July 1, 1933 to July 1, 1934	July 1, 1934 to July 1, 1935
Salaries and Clerk Hire,	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
General Office Expenses,	4,500.00	4,500.00
Pay and Expenses of Wardens,	48,000.00	48,000.00
Propagation of Shell Fish,	2,500.00	2,500.00
Purchase of Seed Lobsters,	13,000.00	13,000.00

PREVIOUS APPROPRIATIONS

	July 1, 1930 to July 1, 1931	July 1, 1931 to July 1, 1932
Salaries and Clerk Hire,	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
General Office Expenses,	3,500.00	4,000.00
Pay and Expenses of Wardens,	46,000.00	48,000.00
Purchase of Seed Lobsters,	17,000.00	17,000.00
Propagation of Shell Fish,	2,500.00	2,500.00

AMOUNTS RECEIVED FROM FINES AND LICENSES

	July 1, 1930 to July 1, 1931	July 1, 1931 to July 1, 1932
Fines,	\$ 1,112.00	\$ 1,292.00
Licenses,	4,055.00	5,856.00
	\$ 5,167.00	\$ 7,148.00

DIFFERENT KINDS OF LICENSES ISSUED

	July 1930 to July 1931	July 1931 to July 1932
Lobster Licenses		
Fishermen,	3,075	2,982
Dealérs,	166	170
Merchants,	160	254
Hotels and Restaurants,	440	453
Domestic Smacks and Trucks,	74	67
Foreign Smacks and Trucks,	28	31
	3,943	3,957
Clam Licenses		
Merchants,		1,730
Shippers,		1,045
		1,775

ACCOUNT OF SEED LOBSTERS PURCHASED
BY STATE OF MAINE

	No. of Lbs.	Cost
July 1, 1930 to July 1, 1931,	57,859	\$ 17,270.83
July 1, 1931 to July 1, 1932,	46,790	16,492.94
	104,649	\$ 33,763.77