

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
MARINE RESOURCES
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD: 691 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE DIVERS TO DIVE FOR RACINE
LOBSTERS

LU-WD -- HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

The bill would have allowed the harvest of lobsters by divers. The bill was withdrawn prior to hearing.

LD: 692 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE USE OF LOBSTER FUND CROWLEY
MONEY TO PROVIDE FOR LOBSTER HATCHERIES RUHLIN
VOSE

LU-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

The bill would have established a lobster hatchery program funded by the Lobster Fund. The committee incorporated most of the provisions of this bill into the new draft (LD 1552) of LD 1067 which also dealt with lobster hatcheries.

LD: 693 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT ALL AQUACULTURE SEED SCARPINO
STOCK BE CULTURED STOCK CONNERS

MAJ ONTP HOUSE Accepted MAJ Committee Report
MIN OIP SENATE Accepted MAJ Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

The bill would have required that the shellfish seed stock for all aquaculture operations be cultured and not harvested from wild stocks. The majority of the committee felt that this was an unreasonable restriction of aquacultural operations.

LD: 694 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE AREA OF AQUACULTURE SCARPINO
LEASES CONNERS

MAJ ONTP HOUSE Accepted MAJ Committee Report
MIN OIP SENATE Accepted MAJ Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

The bill would have limited aquaculture leases to a single applicant to a maximum of 5 acres with no contiguous leases. The majority of the committee felt that this was an unreasonable restriction of aquacultural operations.

LD: 718 AN ACT TO RAISE THE MINIMUM LEGAL SIZE OF CROWLEY
LOBSTERS

HOUSE Ref'd to Committee
SENATE Ref'd to Committee
GOV

SUMMARY:

The bill proposes an increase in the minimum legal lobster size by 2/16ths of an inch over a four year period. The bill stipulated that the increase is conditional on parallel action by the states on New Hampshire and Massachusetts. At a large hearing in Rockport at the 1985 Fisherman's Forum, a substantial majority of those testifying opposed the increase on the grounds that the scientific evidence used to justify the increase was inconclusive and that the increase would impose serious economic burdens on the industry. The DMR strongly supported the increase. The committee ultimately voted to hold the bill for the 2nd Regular Session after rejecting an amendment by the sponsor to reduce the proposed increase to a single sixteenth of an inch. The committee will be undertaking a major review of the scientific literature on this subject during the interim (see LD 1620).

LD: 775 AN ACT TO DEPUTIZE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES CROWLEY
SERVICE OFFICERS, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD VOSE
ND of 255 PERSONNEL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL OF RICE
OTHER STATES AS DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES BROWN L
MARINE PATROL OFFICERS AND TO DEFINE POSSESSION

HOUSE Enacted PUBLIC
SENATE Enacted CH # 24
GOV SIGNED

SUMMARY:

New draft of LD 255. The bill extended the definition of "possession" in the context of marine resources law to hold employers responsible for what may be in the possession of their employees. The bill also allows the Commissioner (DMR) to deputize law enforcement personnel from federal agencies or other state governments and to authorize their assistance in the enforcement of marine resources laws. The specific laws would be designated by the Commissioner.