

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: 1469 AN ACT RELATING TO FISHING BY NET, TRAP OR
EMERGENCY WEIR IN THE WATERS OF UNION RIVER BAY AND THE
ND of 536 LOWER UNION RIVER IN HANCOCK COUNTY

PERKINS
FOSTER
CONNERS
CROWLEY

HOUSE Emerg. Enacted
SENATE Emerg. Enacted
GOV EMER SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 211

SUMMARY:

New draft of LD 536. The original bill proposed a ban on fishing other than by hook and line and certain other hand methods within Union River Bay. The purpose of the bill was to protect an "alewife sea ranching" project (aquaculture) undertaken by the City of Ellsworth. The new draft provided more precise boundaries for the restricted area and provide exemptions for lobstering and alewife fishing.

LD: 1534 AN ACT RELATING TO SCALLOPING AND DRAGGING
ND of 1351 IN THE FRENCHBORO AREA

SALSBURY
ZIRNKILTON
PERKINS

HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 317

H-219 HA ZIRNKILTON

SUMMARY:

New draft of LD 1351. The original bill banned scallop dragging in an area between Swan's Island and Frenchboro. The new draft prohibited the taking of scallops by any means in the closed area. Some testimony was presented that such a ban would be an unreasonable economic burden on local scallopers. The committee decided, however, that after three cable breaks caused by dragging in a more narrowly defined area the only solution was to close the larger area to all scalloping. Scallop diving is also prohibited to prevent divers from having an advantage over scallop draggers and to establish a conservation area for scallops.

LD: 1547 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE LAW REGARDING THE
ND of 924 TAKING OF SOFT-SHELL CLAMS

MANNING
RUHLIN
CROWLEY
VOSE

HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 255

SUMMARY:

New draft of LD924. The original bill proposed a special license for the commercial operation of soft-shelled clam dredges. The new draft allows the use of such dredges only for onsite aquacultural operations, educational or scientific purposes, or municipal transplanting projects. Commercial harvesting of wild clams is specifically prohibited.

LD: 1548 AN ACT TO CLARIFY AND CORRECT CERTAIN LAWS
EMERGENCY RELATING TO MARINE RESOURCES LAWS
ND of 877

CROWLEY
CHALMERS
SHUTE
RUHLIN

HOUSE Emerg. Enacted
SENATE Emerg. Enacted
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 268

H-188 HA CROWLEY H S

SUMMARY:

New draft of LD877. The original bill proposed several changes to marine resources law dealing with the enforcement of salmon fishing law, LORAN boundaries of limited lobstering areas, and obsolete herring size restrictions. The new draft corrected several typos in the original bill and added several new changes. These included a change to allow the Commissioner (DMR) to open closed clam flats through non-emergency procedures, a change to allow the Commissioner to share fisheries statistics with the National Marine Fisheries Service, and a change to provide for free salmon licenses for Maine Indians and residents under 16 years of age. A floor amendment (H-188) corrected further typos in the LORAN boundaries specified in the new draft.

LD: 1549 AN ACT TO GUARANTEE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SOFT-SHELL CLAM RESOURCES
ND of 547

CONNERS
BIGLEY

HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 259

SUMMARY:

New draft of LD 547. The original bill proposed the repeal of municipal licensing of soft-shell clam harvesting and the establishment of a single statewide clam license costing \$150. The new state revenues were to be used to support municipal conservation programs through a grant mechanism. Testimony at the public hearing generally opposed the bill on the grounds of eroding local control. Support came from those who have historically been excluded from the coastal