



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 4

H.P. 5

House of Representatives, January 2, 2019

An Act To Encourage Applied Shellfish Research

Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ALLEY of Beals.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and
Representatives: DEVIN of Newcastle, TUELL of East Machias, Senators: CARPENTER of
Aroostook, LAWRENCE of York, VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6671, sub-§3, ¶A,** as amended by PL 2017, c. 350, §1, is
3 further amended to read:

4 A. Within any area of the intertidal zone within the municipality, a shellfish
5 conservation ordinance may:

- 6 (1) Regulate or prohibit the possession of shellfish;
- 7 (2) Fix the amount of shellfish that may be taken;
- 8 (3) Provide for protection from shellfish predators;
- 9 (4) Authorize the municipal officials to open and close flats under specified
10 conditions; ~~and~~
- 11 (5) Specify areas of the intertidal zone in which the dragging of mussels may be
12 limited to the degree necessary to support a municipal shellfish conservation
13 program; ~~and~~
- 14 (6) Allow a research entity to conduct applied research in conjunction with
15 department staff or a professional entity that is approved by the department to
16 support a municipal shellfish conservation program. The municipality shall
17 require a research entity conducting approved research projects in the intertidal
18 zone pursuant to this paragraph to issue an annual report on research findings to
19 the commissioner by January 1st.

20 **SUMMARY**

21 This bill amends the law governing municipal shellfish conservation programs. It
22 provides that a municipal shellfish conservation ordinance may allow a research entity to
23 conduct applied research in conjunction with Department of Marine Resources staff or an
24 approved professional entity to support a municipal shellfish conservation program. It
25 also requires a municipality to require a research entity conducting approved research
26 projects in the intertidal zone to issue an annual report on research findings to the
27 Commissioner of Marine Resources by January 1st.