



129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1241

H.P. 902

House of Representatives, March 14, 2019

**An Act To Improve Survival Rates of Salmon and Other Migratory
Fish Transitioning from Freshwater to Saltwater Environments**

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 DODGE of Belfast.
Cosponsored by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and
Representatives: AUSTIN of Skowhegan, BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, BLUME of York,
HARNETT of Gardiner, INGWERSEN of Arundel, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, PLUECKER
of Warren, Senator: CARSON of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA c. 606, sub-c. 2** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 2**

4 **SMOLTIFICATION SUCCESS RESEARCH**

5 **§6151. Smoltification success research program**

6 The commissioner shall establish a smoltification success research program, referred
7 to in this section as "the program," within the department. The purpose of this program is
8 to develop reliable scientific information for use in management of pollution control
9 efforts and pollution licensing decisions.

10 **1. Research; data collection.** The program must include investigation of external
11 influences on smoltification success and metamorphosis success of nonsalmonid
12 anadromous species and smolt migration success. Specific attention must be given to
13 evaluating the effects of industrial and sewage treatment plant effluents and other
14 pollutants on the timing of smoltification. The program must collect smoltification data
15 and ensure continuity of data collection.

16 **2. Policy investigations.** The commissioner shall develop in the program the
17 capacity to systematically analyze the effects of a variety of chemicals found in effluents
18 under subsection 1 on the timing of the development and physical health of smolts and
19 recommendations for conservation and management options. The analysis must include
20 the effluence of biological substances such as pheromones from land-based aquaculture.
21 Analysis of these effects must be conducted cooperatively with the industries and
22 communities that discharge effluents into rivers that are significant for Atlantic salmon
23 and other diadromous fish species.

24 **3. Cooperation.** The commissioner shall cooperatively develop and coordinate the
25 program with the University of Maine.

26 **4. Report.** The commissioner shall prepare and submit to the joint standing
27 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters an annual
28 report on the success of the program.

29 **5. Funds.** All federal and state funds obtained by the department for smoltification
30 success research must be used to achieve the objectives of this subchapter.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill directs the Commissioner of Marine Resources to establish a smoltification
33 success research program to investigate the external influences on smoltification success
34 and metamorphosis success of nonsalmonid anadromous species and smolt migration
35 success. Specific attention must be given to evaluating the effects of industrial and
36 sewage treatment plant effluents and other pollutants on the timing of smoltification. The

1 program must include the capacity to systematically analyze the effect of a variety of
2 chemicals found in effluents on the timing of the development of and physical health of
3 smolts and recommendations for conservation and management options. The analysis
4 must include the effluence of biological substances such as pheromones from land-based
5 aquaculture. Analysis of these effects must be conducted cooperatively with the
6 industries and communities that discharge into rivers that are significant for Atlantic
7 salmon and other diadromous fish species.