



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 1951

S.P. 794

In Senate, May 16, 2023

An Act Regarding Marine Finfish Aquaculture

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and
Senator: President JACKSON of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§2, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 535, §1, is further
3 amended to read:

4 E. Except as provided in subsection 13-A, the lease does not result in a person being
5 a tenant of any kind in leases covering an aggregate of more than 500 acres; ~~and~~

6 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§2, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 453, §1, is
7 amended to read:

8 F. No single lease may exceed 100 acres in size;

9 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§2, ¶G** is enacted to read:

10 G. A lease may not be issued for marine finfish aquaculture if the stocking density
11 exceeds 22 kilograms per cubic meter, except that the department and the Department
12 of Environmental Protection may establish lower limits via permit conditions or adopt
13 routine technical rules, as described in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, that set a
14 lower limit. A lease that is in effect on the effective date of this paragraph must abide
15 by these limits upon renewal of the lease; and

16 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§2, ¶H** is enacted to read:

17 H. A lease may not be issued for marine finfish aquaculture if the biomass exceeds
18 780 metric tons, except that the department and the Department of Environmental
19 Protection may adopt routine technical rules, as described in Title 5, chapter 375,
20 subchapter 2-A, that set a lower limit. A lease that is in effect on the effective date of
21 this paragraph must abide by these limits upon renewal of the lease. The department
22 and the Department of Environmental Protection may adopt routine technical rules to
23 set lower biomass limits on a regional basis or via permit conditions.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill provides that the Commissioner of Marine Resources may not issue a lease
26 for marine finfish aquaculture if the stocking density exceeds 22 kilograms per cubic meter
27 or if the biomass exceeds 780 metric tons and that existing leases must abide by these limits
28 upon renewal.