



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 586

S.P. 254

In Senate, February 14, 2023

**An Act to Protect Maine Fisheries from the Effects of Industrial
Recirculating Aquaculture Operations**

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 BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.
Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln and
Representative: SALISBURY of Westbrook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6077-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§6077-A. Industrial recirculating aquaculture operations and fisheries**

4 In accordance with rules adopted pursuant to this section, the department shall monitor
5 industrial recirculating aquaculture operations and fisheries to ensure that aquaculture
6 operations meet the criteria established in this section.

7 **1. New operations.** Industrial recirculating aquaculture operations established on or
8 after January 1, 2024 may not contribute to the degradation of water quality or air quality
9 or increase overall carbon emissions.

10 **2. Feed sources; composition.** Feed sources for industrial recirculating aquaculture
11 operations must be free of wild marine organisms, pollutants and contaminants as specified
12 by the department by rule, including but not limited to wild finfish, wild krill, genetically
13 modified ingredients, polychlorinated biphenyls and mercury.

14 **3. Other operations.** Industrial recirculating aquaculture operations may not
15 adversely impact native lobster, shellfish, seaweed or finfish operations.

16 The department shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to
17 this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 This bill directs the Department of Marine Resources to ensure that new industrial
20 recirculating aquaculture operations do not contribute to the degradation of water quality
21 or air quality or increase the State's overall carbon emissions and that aquaculture feed
22 sources do not include certain wild marine organisms, pollutants and contaminants. The
23 department must also ensure that industrial recirculating aquaculture operations do not
24 adversely impact native lobster, shellfish, seaweed or finfish operations.