

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

—
H.P. 854 - L.D. 1279

Resolve, Establishing the Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program

Sec. 1. Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program established.

Resolved: That the Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program, referred to in this resolve as "the program," is established until December 31, 2027. The Department of Marine Resources, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall oversee the program. The purpose of the program is to conduct biotoxin testing of whole cultured scallops or the roe of cultured scallops in the same manner as the testing for other cultured mollusks under the Marine Shellfish Toxins Monitoring Program, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6076, including using high-performance liquid chromatography testing. The department shall provide logistical support to a commercial fisheries business engaged in scallop aquaculture in conducting the testing under this section, including providing transportation of samples to be tested from a facility in the municipality in which the grower is located to the testing site. For the purposes of this section, "high-performance liquid chromatography testing" means a testing technique in analytical chemistry that uses high-pressure pumps to separate, identify and quantify specific components in mixtures. The program may not conduct testing on cultured scallops or the roe of cultured scallops grown on limited-purpose aquaculture license sites.

Sec. 2. Report. Resolved: That the department shall submit a report on each year of the program, by January 1, 2027 and January 1, 2028, respectively, detailing the number of commercial fisheries businesses using the testing under section 1, the overall impact on the scallop aquaculture industry, including economic growth and cultured scallop landings, and recommendations for further improvements or expansions of the testing under section 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters. The committee may report out a bill based on the 2028 report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved: That the following appropriations and allocations are made.

**MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF
Bureau of Public Health Z154**

Initiative: Provides funding for a pilot program testing scallops for biotoxins for fiscal year 2025-26 and fiscal year 2026-27.

GENERAL FUND	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$50,000	\$50,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$50,000</u>	<u>\$50,000</u>