

STATE OF MAINE

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

—  
H.P. 1365 - L.D. 1844

**An Act To Amend Provisions in the Laws Governing Aquaculture Leases**

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

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6072, sub-§1-A**, as amended by PL 1999, c. 567, §1, is further amended to read:

**1-A. Lease requirement; finfish and suspension culture.** Except as provided in paragraphs B and B-1 and sections 6072-A, 6072-B and 6072-C, it is unlawful for a person who does not have a lease issued by the commissioner under this section to construct or operate in the coastal waters of the State a facility for the culture of finfish in nets, pens or other enclosures or for the suspended culture of any other marine organism. For the purposes of this subsection, "suspended culture" includes all forms of culture except for the placement of marine organisms on the ocean bottom without the use of gear of any type.

B. A person operating a facility in the coastal waters of the State, on or before the effective date of this subsection, for the culture of finfish in nets, pens or other enclosures or for the suspended culture of shellfish that is not leased under this section must register the facility with the commissioner on or before January 1, 1992 on a form specified by the commissioner. A person registering under this paragraph must submit a completed lease application on or before July 1, 1992. A registrant whose application under this paragraph is denied shall immediately cease operations at the facility and remove all related structures from the coastal waters of the State.

B-1. A person operating a facility in the coastal waters of the State for the suspended culture of a marine organism other than shellfish that is not leased under this section must register the facility with the commissioner on or before January 1, 1994 on a form specified by the commissioner. A person registering under this paragraph must submit a completed lease application on or before July 1, 1994. A registrant whose application under this paragraph is denied shall immediately cease operations at the facility and remove all related structures from the coastal waters of the State.

C. The commissioner may not consider an application for a lease under this section on an area registered under paragraph B or B-1 from a person other than the registrant prior to rendering a final decision on any application submitted by a registrant under paragraph B or B-1.

A person who violates this subsection is subject to a civil penalty, payable to the State, of no more than \$1,000 for each day of the violation.

**Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6072-B, sub-§2, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 231, §6, is amended to read:

A. The applicant holds a lease pursuant to section 6072 or 6072-A, except that this paragraph does not apply if the department is the applicant;

**Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6085, sub-§8** is enacted to read:

**8. License expiration.** Notwithstanding section 6301, subsection 2, the commissioner may issue a license under this section for more than one calendar year.