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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

June 8, 2023

Lewis Pinkham, Chair
Shellfish Advisory Council
PO Box 473
Millbridge, Maine 04658

Dear Mr. Pinkham:

As you may know, the 131st Legislature’s Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources recently considered LD 1915, “Resolve, to Establish a Grant Program to Issue Shellfish Licenses to Qualified Disabled Veterans.” The intent of this proposed legislation is to incentivize municipalities to reserve some shellfish licenses for certain disabled veterans by establishing shellfish restoration grants for which qualifying municipalities could apply.

After discussion, the Committee unanimously voted to carry LD 1915 over to the Second Regular Session in hopes that more information about the demand for such a program and the feasibility of its implementation may become available. As such, the Committee respectfully requests that the Shellfish Advisory Council review the proposed program and report back to the Committee by February 1, 2024 with their findings and recommendations. Specifically, the Committee asks that the Council consider any specific details regarding how this program could be implemented and, if possible, collect feedback from coastal municipalities with shellfish ordinances about the demand for the program proposed in LD 1915 and potential challenges or barriers that may arise at the municipal level.

The Committee is grateful for the Shellfish Advisory Council’s assistance and looks forward to reviewing your report in February.

Sincerely,

Sen. Cameron Reny
Senate Chair

Rep. Allison Hepler
House Chair

c: Danielle Fox, Director, Office of Policy & Legal Analysis
Jessica Lundgren, Director, Law & Legislative Reference Library