

HOUSE No. 4133

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 22, 2018.

The committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to whom were referred the petition (accompanied by resolve, Senate, No. 410) of Julian Cyr, Timothy R. Whelan, Sarah K. Peake, Barbara A. L'Italien and other members of the General Court for legislation to establish a special commission to study the effects of coastal and ocean acidification and its existing and potential effects on species that are commercially harvested and grown along the Massachusetts coast, the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 472) of William M. Straus for an investigation by a task force (including members of the General Court) relative to the effects of coastal and ocean acidification on commercially harvested or grown species in coastal and ocean environments and the petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 2122) of Dylan Fernandes and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of the effects of ocean acidification on the Commonwealth's fishing industry, reports recommending that the accompanying resolve (House, No. 4133) ought to pass.

For the committee,

SMITTY PIGNATELLI.

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**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

Resolve establishing a special commission to study the effects of coastal and ocean acidification and its existing and potential effects on species that are commercially harvested and grown along the Massachusetts coast.

1 ~~Resolved~~, That a special legislative commission pursuant to section 2A of chapter 4 of the
2 General Laws is hereby established to: (i) identify the actual and potential effects of coastal and
3 ocean acidification on commercially valuable marine species; (ii) identify the scientific data and
4 knowledge gaps that may hinder the commonwealth’s ability to craft policy and other responses
5 to coastal and ocean acidification; and (iii) prioritize the strategies for filling those gaps to
6 provide policies and tools to respond to the adverse effects of coastal and ocean acidification on
7 commercially important fisheries and the commonwealth’s shellfish aquaculture industry.

8 The commission shall consist 19 members: the house and senate chairs of the joint
9 committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture or their designees, who shall serve
10 as co-chairs of the commission; 3 members of the senate, 2 of whom shall be appointed by the
11 senate president and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 3
12 members of the house of representatives, 2 of whom shall be appointed by the speaker of the
13 house of representatives and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of
14 representatives; 8 members who shall be appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be

15 representatives of an environmental or community group, 3 of whom shall be commercial
16 fishermen, including at least one aquaculturist, and 3 of whom shall be scientists who have
17 studied coastal or ocean acidification; the commissioner of marine fisheries or their designee;
18 the commissioner of environmental protection or their designee; and the director of coastal zone
19 management or their designee.

20 All appointments shall be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
21 resolve. The co-chairs shall convene the first meeting of the special commission within 45 days
22 of all appointments being made.

23 The commission shall meet a minimum of 4 times to review, study and analyze existing
24 scientific literature and data on coastal and ocean acidification and how it has affected or
25 potentially will affect commercially harvested and grown species along the coast of the
26 commonwealth and shall address: (i) the factors contributing to coastal and ocean acidification;
27 (ii) how to mitigate coastal and ocean acidification; (iii) critical scientific data and knowledge
28 gaps pertaining to coastal and ocean acidification as well as critical scientific data and
29 knowledge gaps pertaining to the effects of coastal and ocean acidification on species that are
30 commercially harvested and grown along the commonwealth's coast; (iv) steps to strengthen
31 existing scientific monitoring, research and analysis regarding the causes of and trends in coastal
32 and ocean acidification; and (v) steps to take to provide recommendations to the legislature and
33 increase public awareness of coastal and ocean acidification.

34 The commission shall include in its review of the relevant scientific literature and data
35 the results of studies presented at the conferences or workshops held in the New England or
36 northeast region that relate to coastal and ocean acidification, and shall coordinate with the

37 Northeast Coastal Acidification Network and the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators
38 to prevent duplication of effort. The commission shall conduct public hearings to gather
39 information and the joint committee on environment, natural resources and agriculture shall
40 provide staff and other resources as the co-chairs of the commission consider appropriate. The
41 commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of
42 legislation necessary to carry out those recommendations, by filing the same with the clerks of
43 the house of representatives and the senate, and with the joint committee on environment, natural
44 resources and agriculture no later than February 1, 2019.