

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 716**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

***Timothy R. Madden***

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying resolve:

Resolve creating 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.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>James M. Cantwell</i>	<i>4th Plymouth</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Ann-Margaret Ferrante</i>	<i>5th Essex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Brian R. Mannal</i>	<i>2nd Barnstable</i>
<i>Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.</i>	<i>28th Middlesex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Sarah K. Peake</i>	<i>4th Barnstable</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Daniel A. Wolf</i>	<i>Cape and Islands</i>

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By Mr. Madden of Nantucket, a petition (accompanied by resolve, House, No. 716) of Timothy R. Madden and others for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) of the effects of coastal and ocean acidification and its existing and potential effects on species that are commercially harvested and grown along the coast of the Commonwealth. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)  
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Resolve creating 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 commission is hereby established to identify the actual and  
2 potential effects of coastal and ocean acidification on commercially valuable marine species, to  
3 identify the scientific data and knowledge gaps that may hinder Massachusetts’ ability to craft  
4 policy and other responses to coastal and ocean acidification and prioritize the strategies for  
5 filling those gaps to provide policies and tools to respond to the adverse effects of coastal and  
6 ocean acidification on commercially important fisheries and Massachusetts’ shellfish aquaculture  
7 industry.

8 The commission shall consist of the following members: the House and Senate Chairmen  
9 of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture, who shall be  
10 designated as Co-Chairs of the special commission; 3 members of the Senate, 2 of whom shall be  
11 appointed by the Senate President and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of  
12 the Senate; 3 members of the House of Representatives, 2 of whom shall be appointed by the

13 Speaker of the House and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
14 Representatives; 8 members appointed by the Governor, 2 of whom shall be representatives of an  
15 environmental or community group, 3 of whom shall be commercial fishermen, including at least  
16 one aquaculturist, and 3 of whom shall be scientists who have studied coastal or ocean  
17 acidification; the Commissioner of Marine Fisheries or their designee; the Commissioner of  
18 Environmental Protection or their designee; and the Director of Coastal Zone Management or  
19 their designee.

20 All appointments must 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 special commission shall meet a minimum of 4 times to review, study and analyze  
24 existing 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: 1. the factors contributing to coastal and ocean acidification;  
27 2. how to mitigate coastal and ocean acidification; 3. critical scientific data and knowledge gaps  
28 pertaining to coastal and ocean acidification as well as critical scientific data and knowledge  
29 gaps pertaining to the effects of coastal and ocean acidification on species that are commercially  
30 harvested and grown along Massachusetts' coast. The commission shall include in its review of  
31 the relevant scientific literature and data the results of studies presented at the conferences or  
32 workshops held in the New England or Northeast region that relate to coastal and ocean  
33 acidification, and the special commission shall coordinate with the Northeast Coastal  
34 Acidification Network and the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators to prevent  
35 duplication of effort; 4. steps to strengthen existing scientific monitoring, research and analysis

36 regarding the causes of and trends in coastal and ocean acidification; and 5. steps to take to  
37 provide recommendations to the Legislature and increase public awareness of coastal and ocean  
38 acidification.

39           The special commission shall conduct public hearings to gather information and the Joint  
40 Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture shall provide staff and other  
41 resources as the commission and those agencies consider appropriate. The special commission  
42 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, together with drafts of legislation  
43 necessary to carry out those recommendations, by filing the same with the Joint Committee on  
44 Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture no later than December 31, 2015.