

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 765**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*William M. Straus*

*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 bill:

An Act establishing an ocean acidification task force.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>William M. Straus</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>

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By Mr. Straus of Mattapoisett, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 765) of William M. Straus, Timothy R. Madden and Sean Garballey 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. 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)  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act establishing an ocean acidification task force.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. There is hereby established an Ocean Acidification Task Force to  
2 investigate, identify, and study the direct and indirect effects of coastal and ocean acidification  
3 on species that are commercially harvested or grown in the commonwealth’s coastal and ocean  
4 environments.

5 The Task Force shall consist of the following members: 3 members of the senate, 2 of  
6 whom shall be appointed by the president of the senate and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the  
7 minority leader; 3 members of the house of representatives, 2 of whom shall be appointed by the  
8 speaker of the house and 1 of whom shall be appointed by the minority leader; 8 members  
9 appointed by the governor, 2 of whom shall be representatives of environmental or community  
10 groups, 3 of whom shall be persons who fish commercially, including at least one aquaculturist,  
11 and 3 of whom shall be scientists who have studied coastal or ocean acidification; the

12 commissioner of the department of environmental protection or his designee; the commissioner  
13 of the department of agricultural resources or his designee; the director of the division of marine  
14 fisheries or his designee; the director of the office of coastal zone management or his designee;  
15 and 1 municipal official appointed by the Massachusetts Municipal Association. The Task Force  
16 shall be chaired by the commissioner of environmental protection, or his designee.

17           The Task Force shall: (i) examine existing state and federal laws pertaining to coastal  
18 and ocean acidification; (ii) review, study and analyze existing scientific literature and data on  
19 coastal and ocean acidification and the direct and indirect effects and potential effects such  
20 acidification has had or may have on commercially harvested or grown species along the coasts  
21 of the commonwealth; (iii) identify critical gaps in such scientific literature and data; (iv)  
22 identify the factors contributing to coastal and ocean acidification; (v) identify methods and  
23 protocols to mitigate coastal and ocean acidification; (vi) identify economic development  
24 opportunities afforded by ocean acidification through development and commercialization of  
25 new technologies and businesses; (vii) examine means of increasing public awareness of coastal  
26 and ocean acidification; and (viii) make recommendations for legislation addressing coastal and  
27 ocean acidification.

28           The Task Force shall submit its findings, together with drafts of recommended  
29 legislation, if any, to the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the chairs of the  
30 senate and house committees on ways and means, and the chairs of the joint committee on  
31 environment, natural resources and agriculture not later than March 30, 2016.