



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 8336



Offered by:
REP. PARKER, 101st Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 6222

File No. 715

Cal. No. 446

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE TAKING OF EASTERN OYSTERS
AND INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Agriculture
4 shall review a study conducted by an in-state university-based marine
5 research, education and outreach program on the appropriate minimum
6 length for eastern oysters to be taken in the state upon the
7 commissioner's receipt of such study from such program. In reviewing
8 such study, the commissioner may consult with scientific experts
9 concerning such appropriate minimum length. Such review shall be
10 conducted on or before October 1, 2025. Not later than February 1, 2026,
11 the commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of
12 the general statutes, shall issue a detailed recommendation concerning
13 the minimum length for the taking of such eastern oysters to the joint
14 standing committee of the general assembly having cognizance of
15 matters relating to the environment. The commissioner's

16 recommendation concerning such minimum length shall be based on
17 the conclusions of any such review and scientific consultations as to the
18 minimum length that enables the optimal health condition of the oysters
19 taken and the state's oyster beds.

20 Sec. 2. Section 26-45 of the general statutes is repealed and the
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

22 No person shall possess for the purpose of sale, sell or offer for sale
23 any bait species without first obtaining a bait dealer's license from the
24 commissioner, provided the provisions of this section shall not apply to
25 persons issued a commercial hatchery license under section 26-149 or to
26 any person operating a food service establishment that is regulated
27 pursuant to the public health code when such bait species purchased by
28 such person is prepared as food for human consumption and is not
29 resold for any other purpose. Application forms for such license shall be
30 furnished by the commissioner. Such license shall be nontransferable.
31 The fee for each such license shall be sixty-three dollars annually. Each
32 such license shall expire on the last day of December next after issuance.
33 Each such licensed bait dealer may possess and sell only such bait
34 species as shall be authorized under regulations issued by the
35 commissioner, provided live carp and goldfish shall not be possessed
36 for any purpose on premises used by licensed bait dealers. Each such
37 licensee shall keep such records relating to the operation of such
38 business as the commissioner determines on forms furnished by the
39 commissioner and shall file such report with the commissioner within
40 thirty days after the expiration of such license. No such report shall
41 contain any material false statement. Failure to file such report shall be
42 a violation of this section and the commissioner may refuse to reissue
43 such license until the licensee complies with this requirement.
44 Representatives of the commissioner may enter upon the premises of
45 bait dealers at any time to inspect required records and the bait species
46 possessed and to detect violations of this section and regulations issued
47 hereunder by the commissioner, and such representatives may
48 confiscate and dispose of any fish illegally possessed. Any person who

49 violates any provision of this section or any such regulation issued by
50 the commissioner shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	26-45