



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2025

LCO No. 8368



Offered by:  
REP. PARKER, 101<sup>st</sup> 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 the results of a study conducted by an in-state university-  
5 based marine research, education and outreach program on the  
6 appropriate minimum length for eastern oysters to be taken in the state  
7 upon the commissioner's receipt of such results from such program  
8 immediately following the conclusion of such study. In reviewing such  
9 study, the commissioner may consult with scientific experts concerning  
10 such appropriate minimum length. Not later than February 1, 2026, the  
11 commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
12 general statutes, shall issue a detailed recommendation concerning the  
13 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 Section 26-45 of the general statutes is repealed and the  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