

**Sec. 1. Department of Environmental Protection to review environmental permitting laws and work with working group.**

Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection shall consider whether on-water aquaculture should be subject to the same or similar regulatory regime as land-based aquaculture. The legislature shall administer a working group to work with the DEP and that working group shall submit a report of its review, no later than October 1, 2024, including any suggested legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

**Sec 2. Composition of the working group**

1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

2. Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, including a member from each of the 2 parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature;

**3. Five members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:**

- A. Two members representing a nonprofit organization with interest and experience in aquaculture.
- B. One member representing the State of Maine Harbor Masters Association;
- C. One member representing the lobster industry
- D. One member representing an aquaculture trade association or industry group;
- E. One member representing the citizens of Maine

**4. Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House as follows:**

- A. Two members representing the wild marine harvest.
- B. One member who is small aquaculture lease holder defined as less than a cumulative amount of 50 acres.
- C. One member who is a former commissioner or legislator with working knowledge of the waterfront, aquaculture and the lobstering industry.
- D. One member representing the University of Maine System;
- E. One member representing the citizens of Maine

**5. Three members appointed by the Governor as follows:**

- A. One member representing the Department of Marine Resources;
- B. One member representing the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- C. One member representing the Department of Economic and Community Development.