

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 95**

LCO No. 2306

**AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S SHELLFISH RESTORATION PROGRAM AND THE CONNECTICUT SEAFOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 26-237a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

3 There is established within the Department of Agriculture a program  
4 to purchase and acquire shell or other cultch material for deposit on  
5 state shellfish beds. The program shall also include the purchase of  
6 management supplies, materials and spawn oyster stock. Pursuant to  
7 such program, the Commissioner of Agriculture may contract with  
8 multiple parties for the use of shell recovery vessels to collect and  
9 deposit shell on shellfish beds. Additionally, under such program, the  
10 department may receive and deposit on shellfish beds cultch from  
11 oyster shell recycling programs administered or authorized by the  
12 department.

13 Sec. 2. Section 26-237b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
14 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

15 (a) There is established and created a fund to be known as the  
16 "Shellfish Fund". The proceeds of any bonds authorized for the purpose  
17 of section 26-237a, as amended by this act, and any private, state or  
18 federal grants or direct funding received or awarded for the purposes of  
19 section 26-237a, as amended by this act, shall be deposited in the fund.  
20 Any balance remaining in said fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be  
21 carried forward in said fund for the fiscal year next succeeding.

22 (b) The fund shall be used by the Commissioner of Agriculture for  
23 the program established under section 26-237a, as amended by this act,  
24 including, but not limited to, the support of an oyster shell recycling  
25 program administered by the Department of Agriculture in partnership  
26 with multiple parties.

27 Sec. 3. Section 22-455 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
28 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

29 There is established a Connecticut Seafood [Advisory] Development  
30 Council to assist in the promotion of Connecticut seafood products and  
31 examine market opportunities. The development council shall be within  
32 the Department of Agriculture. The [advisory] development council  
33 shall consist of [one freshwater fish producer appointed by the  
34 Governor, two finfish, shellfish or lobster harvesters or representatives  
35 of harvester organizations appointed one each by the speaker and  
36 majority leader of the House of Representatives, two finfish, shellfish or  
37 lobster processors or representatives of processor organizations  
38 appointed one each by the minority leaders of the Senate and House of  
39 Representatives, one retailer serving restaurants or representing a  
40 restaurant organization appointed by the president pro tempore of the  
41 Senate, one member at-large appointed by the majority leader of the  
42 Senate, and four nonvoting members one of whom shall represent the  
43 Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, one the  
44 Department of Economic and Community Development and one the  
45 Department of Agriculture and one the Sea Grant Program at The  
46 University of Connecticut. The advisory council shall be within the  
47 Department of Agriculture] the following thirteen members: (1) The  
48 Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee; (2) the  
49 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the  
50 commissioner's designee; (3) the Commissioner of Energy and  
51 Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (4) the  
52 director of the Sea Grant Program at The University of Connecticut, or  
53 the director's designee; (5) one freshwater finfish producer appointed by  
54 the Governor; (6) one aquaculture finfish producer appointed by the  
55 speaker of the House of Representatives; (7) one commercial marine

56 finfish harvester appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
57 Representatives; (8) one commercial lobster harvester appointed by the  
58 minority leader of the House of Representatives; (9) one shellfish  
59 wholesale dealer appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture; (10)  
60 one representative of the Connecticut Restaurant Association; (11) one  
61 small-scale aquaculture producer appointed by the president pro  
62 tempore of the Senate; (12) one seaweed aquaculture producer  
63 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and (13) one shellfish  
64 harvester appointed by the minority leader of the Senate. The  
65 Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee, shall  
66 serve as the chairperson of the development council.

67 (b) The development council may receive state, federal and municipal  
68 funds and funds from any nonprofit or nongovernmental organization.  
69 Such funds may be expended as necessary to perform the development  
70 council's duties pursuant to this section. The development council may  
71 seek funding for and provide financial support to organizations for  
72 activities directly related to seafood production and any related  
73 products.

74 Sec. 4. Section 22-457 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
75 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2020*):

76 The Connecticut Seafood [Advisory] Development Council may  
77 utilize federal, state or other available funds, and may enter into  
78 contracts in order to carry out the purposes of section 22-455, as  
79 amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	26-237a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	26-237b
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	22-455
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2020</i>	22-457