



General Assembly

January Session, 2021

Raised Bill No. 840

LCO No. 2648



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S SHELLFISH RESTORATION PROGRAM AND THE CONNECTICUT SEAFOOD 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 Section 26-237a of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2021*):

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 for the
8 use of a shell recovery vessel to collect and deposit shell on shellfish
9 beds. Additionally, under such program, the department may receive
10 and deposit on shellfish beds cultch from oyster shell recycling
11 programs administered or authorized by the department.

12 Sec. 2. Section 26-237b of the general statutes is repealed and the
13 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

14 (a) There is established and created a fund to be known as the

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

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

26 Sec. 3. Section 22-455 of the general statutes is repealed and the
27 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2021*):

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

48 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or the
49 commissioner's designee; (3) the Commissioner of Energy and
50 Environmental Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (4) the
51 director of the Sea Grant Program at The University of Connecticut, or
52 the director's designee; (5) one freshwater finfish producer appointed by
53 the Governor; (6) one aquaculture finfish producer appointed by the
54 speaker of the House of Representatives; (7) one commercial marine
55 finfish harvester appointed by the majority leader of the House of
56 Representatives; (8) one commercial lobster harvester appointed by the
57 minority leader of the House of Representatives; (9) one shellfish
58 wholesale dealer appointed by the Commissioner of Agriculture; (10)
59 one representative of the Connecticut Restaurant Association; (11) one
60 small-scale aquaculture producer appointed by the president pro
61 tempore of the Senate; (12) one seaweed aquaculture producer
62 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and (13) one shellfish
63 harvester appointed by the minority leader of the Senate. The
64 Commissioner of Agriculture, or the commissioner's designee, shall
65 serve as the chairperson of the development council.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	26-237a
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	26-237b
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2021</i>	22-455

Statement of Purpose:

To enhance the state's shellfish restoration program through certain contracting authority and to reconstitute the Connecticut Seafood Council.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]