

Legislative Audit Commission

RESOLUTION NO. 127

Presented by Representative Mautino

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Aquaculture Development Act (the "Act") is to establish a policy and program toward improving the science and husbandry of aquaculture in order to augment food supplies, promote agriculture diversification, expand employment opportunities, promote economic activity, increase native fish stocks, enhance commercial and recreational fishing and protect and better use the land and water resources of the State, as a means to expand the aquaculture industry and related economic activity;

WHEREAS, the Act is the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture and the Director of the Department of Agriculture;

WHEREAS, "aquaculture" means the "controlled propagation, growth and harvest of aquatic organisms, including but not limited to fish, shellfish, mollusks, crustaceans, algae and other aquatic plants, by an aquaculturist";

WHEREAS, "aquaculturist" means "individuals involved in producing, transporting or marketing aquatic products from privately owned waters for commercial purposes";

WHEREAS, "permitted aquaculture facility" means a facility used by aquaculturists to breed, hatch, propagate or raise aquatic life permitted by the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Section 20-90 of the Fish and Aquatic Life Code" (15 ILCS 5/20-90);

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture makes grants to the Aquaculture Cooperative from the Illinois Aquaculture Development Fund which is funded by \$1 million transfers from the General Revenue Fund, to be used for the following purposes:

- To buy aquatic organisms from members of the Cooperative;
- To buy aquatic organism food in bulk quantities for resale to the members of the Cooperative;
- For transportation, hauling and delivery equipment;
- For employee salaries, building leases, and other administrative costs;
- To purchase equipment for use by the Cooperative members;
- And other related costs; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMISSION that the Auditor General is directed to conduct a management audit of the Illinois Aquaculture Fund within the Department of Agriculture; and be it further

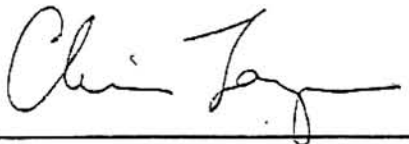
RESOLVED, that the audit include, but need not be limited to, the following determinations with regard to the Aquaculture Cooperative:

- The amount and purpose of expenditures and transfers from the Illinois Aquaculture Development Fund for Fiscal Years 2001, 2002, and 2003;
- Whether expenditures and transfers from the Illinois Aquaculture Development Fund made in Fiscal Years 2001, 2002 and 2003 appear to be in conformity with applicable rules and statutes;
- Whether all minutes, books, budgets and records required under the Act to be kept and made available to the public by the Aquaculture Cooperative have been maintained for Fiscal Years 2001, 2002 and 2003; and
- Whether the financial books and records of the Aquaculture Cooperative were audited by a certified public accountant at least once each fiscal year for 2001, 2002 and 2003, as required by statute.

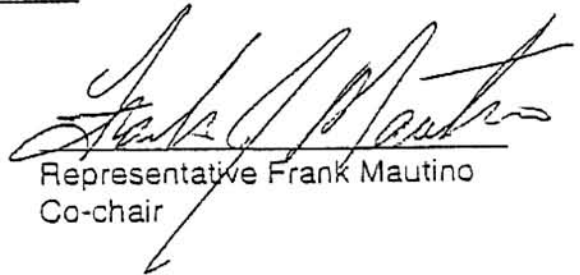
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and any other entity that may have relevant information pertaining to this audit cooperate fully and promptly with the Auditor General's Office in the conduct of this audit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Auditor General commence this audit as soon as possible and report his findings and recommendations upon completion to the Legislative Audit Commission, the Governor and the members of the General Assembly.

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2004.



Senator Chris Lauzen
Co-chair



Representative Frank Mautino
Co-chair