

## Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** HB2493

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron** Larrabee

**3. Committee** Committee on Finance

**4. Title** Grants for creating oyster gardens

**5. Summary/Purpose:** The bill directs the Marine Resources Commission (MRC) to administer grants for creating oyster gardens. Grants, not to exceed \$300, would be awarded to individuals for growing oysters for non-commercial purposes and depositing the oysters on a state-managed sanctuary reef. In order to qualify for the grant, the oysters must be grown under a permit from MRC, at least 500 oysters must be transferred to the state-managed sanctuary reef, and MRC must provide a receipt for the transfer. The grants will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, dependent upon the money available in the fund. The Oyster Growing Activities Fund will be supported with general funds.

**6. See item 8**

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** See item 8

**8. Fiscal implications:** There are approximately 200 growers cultivating oysters under General Permits for Noncommercial Riparian Shellfish Growing Activities issued by MRC. The commission estimates that there could be up to 1,000 permits issued as a result of this legislation. Because the grants are awarded on a first come, first served basis, and the funding available is restricted to the amount appropriated, MRC cannot estimate the administrative costs associated with the program at this time. However, if the program is fully funded and the estimated number of permits is issued, MRC would need an additional position to administer the grants.

There are no budget amendments to fund the Oyster Growing Activities Fund.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Marine Resources Commission

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No

**11. Other comments:** The bill as engrossed in the House prior to this substitute provided for an up to \$300 individual income tax credit for expenses associated with growing oysters and transferring the oysters to a state-managed sanctuary reef.

**Date:** 2/16/01 kbs

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources

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