

HOUSE No. 699

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter V. Kocot

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to conserving bluefin tuna.

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Peter V. Kocot

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

1st Hampshire

HOUSE No. 699

By Mr. Kocot of Northampton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 699) of Peter V. Kocot for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the population and control of fishing for Bluefin Tuna. Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. 737 OF 2013-2014.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court
(2015-2016)**

An Act relative to conserving bluefin tuna.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Resolved, there is hereby created a special commission to study the existing bluefin tuna
2 fishery in Massachusetts coastal waters, to promote the continued viability of the species, to
3 restore a significant population of giant bluefin tuna, to examine the economic and biological
4 impacts of different fishing techniques, such as hook and line, traditional harpooning and purse
5 seining and to examine the interaction of commercial and recreational bluefin tuna fisheries.
6 Said special commission shall compile and evaluate historical data on the frequency, location
7 and size distribution of bluefin tuna taken in Massachusetts waters and the fishing techniques
8 used. Said special commission shall be comprised of three members of the house of
9 representatives, to be appointed by the speaker, two members of the senate, to be appointed by
10 the senate president, and seven members to be appointed by the governor, one of whom shall be

11 representative of commercial purse seine tuna fishing interests, one of whom shall be
12 representative of traditional harpooning of tuna interests, one of whom shall be representative of
13 commercial hook and line tuna fishing interests, one of whom shall be representative of
14 recreational tuna fishing interests, one of whom shall be representative of the division of coastal
15 zone management, one of whom shall be representative of the division of marine fisheries and
16 one of whom shall be representative of the marine trades industry. Said special commission may
17 conduct its meetings at facilities of the commonwealth located in coastal communities and shall
18 report its findings to the committee on natural resources, the division of marine fisheries and the
19 division of coastal zone management no later than November 30, 2016.