STATE OF NEW YORK

7300

IN SENATE

January 5, 2018

Introduced by Sen. LAVALLE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to repeal article 23 of the economic development law, in relation to the establishment of a New York seafood marketing task force and relating to state agencies having seafood marketing roundtable meetings with relevant stakeholders; and providing for the repeal of certain provisions upon expiration thereof

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Article 23 of the economic development law, as proposed in legislative bill numbers S. 5385-A and A. 6893-A, relating to the establishment of a New York seafood marketing task force, is REPEALED.

§ 2. For the purposes of this act, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

1. "State agencies" shall mean state entities responsible for the implementation of New York's fishery management and economic development roundtables, which shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) the department of agriculture and markets;

(b) the department of environmental conservation;

(c) the department of economic development; and

(d) the department of state.

2. The term "relevant stakeholders" may include representatives from:

(a) a college or university with a specialization in marine and atmospheric sciences;

(b) the New York sea grant program;

(c) the Cornell Cooperative Extension;

(d) a trade organization for seafood issues;

(e) dealers, wholesalers or processors who purchase and sell finfish, shellfish, and/or crustaceans;

(f) aquaculturists;

(g) a New York-based retailer of seafood products associated with a restaurant or restaurant organization;

(h) a New York-based retailer of seafood products associated with an independent or franchised store;

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(i) a commercial fisherman licensed to harvest and/or land in New York;

(j) a member of an independent organization or association representing the New York hospitality industry; and/or

(k) an economist with expertise in seafood marketing.

§ 3. On or before September 1, 2018, the state agencies shall meet and convene a series of roundtable meetings with relevant stakeholders at which time a chair or co-chairs may be designated. At least one roundtable meeting shall be held in the regions of the state with a relevant seafood industry stakeholder, specifically Long Island, New York City, and the lower Hudson Valley. At least two roundtable meetings shall be held on Long Island. The agenda and meeting place of any roundtable meetings shall be made available to the public in advance of such roundtable meetings and all roundtable meetings shall be open to the public. The meetings may include, among other things, consideration of the following issues:

1. Methods to increase the resources and information available to support New York's local fishermen, aquaculturists and related small businesses to ensure the best possible economic and environmental outcomes for the continued growth of the seafood industry and the creation of more locally produced sustainable food systems in the state of New York;

2. Methods to promote the marketing and sustainability of New York seafood, such as:

(a) Identifying barriers that prevent and/or inhibit local seafood marketing initiatives and growth;

(b) Identifying and facilitating opportunities to increase consumer demand for local seafood;

(c) Identifying and facilitating opportunities to establish agreements with local fishermen and seafood dealers for potential seafood marketplace expansion;

(d) Identifying and working with federal and state entities to prevent seafood mislabeling and keep illegally caught fish out of New York's seafood markets, while providing more information to consumers about their seafood purchases;

3. Review of existing studies, pilot programs and initiatives of this state and other states regarding best seafood marketing practices; and

4. Potential educational opportunities that may be provided for consumers and the seafood and aquaculture community regarding the importance of New York's seafood industry and seafood issues and initiatives.

§ 4. All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish reasonable advice and provide information and documentation to facilitate the purposes of this act.

§ 5. The state agencies shall provide a written report of their findings identifying any proposed recommendations that may address research, marketing and expansion opportunities for local seafood. Such report shall be provided to the governor, the speaker of the assembly and the temporary president of the senate by September 30, 2019.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that section one of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as a chapter of the laws of 2017, amending the economic development law relating to the establishment of a New York seafood marketing task force, as proposed in legislative bill numbers S.5385-A and A.6893-A, takes effect; provided further, however, that sections two, three, four and five of this act shall expire October 1, 2019 when upon such date the provisions of such sections shall be deemed repealed.