

## Joint Committee on Agriculture

### Bill Summary

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H.127
<b>Title:</b>	An Act prohibiting the aquaculture of any species of octopus for the purpose of human consumption
<b>Sponsors:</b>	Representatives Hendricks of New Bedford and Higgins of Leominster
<b>Hearing Date:</b>	Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 10:30 AM - 01:00 PM, B-2
<b>Reporting Date:</b>	Saturday, July 12, 2025
<b>Similar Matters:</b>	None

#### **Prior History:**

New file; No prior history

#### **CURRENT LAW:**

Chapter 130 of the Massachusetts General Laws relates to marine fish, fishing, fisheries, and the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF).

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill defines the terms “aquaculture” and “octopus.” This bill would ban raising, possessing, selling, and transporting octopus that has been farmed in an aquaculture setting. This ban does not include octopuses that are wild caught, propagated, cultivated, maintained, reared or harvested only for research purposes unrelated to commercial production. Someone who violates this provision is subject to civil penalty. Allows the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this section.