

52:9A-7

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST  
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(Knobbed Whelk--State Shell)

NJSA: 52:9A-7

LAWS OF: 1995 CHAPTER: 89

BILL NO: S741

SPONSOR(S): Cafiero

DATE INTRODUCED: March 3, 1994

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: State Government  
SENATE: Natural Resources

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: March 13, 1995  
SENATE: June 20, 1994

DATE OF APPROVAL: April 13, 1995

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes  
SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

See newspaper clipping--attached:  
"State scungilli," 4-14-95, Star Ledger.

KBG:pp

SENATE, No. 741  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1994

By Senator CAFIERO

1 AN ACT designating the shell of the knobbed whelk as the New  
2 Jersey State Shell.

3

4 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
5 *State of New Jersey:*

6 1. The shell of the knobbed whelk (*busycon carica* (gmelin)) is  
7 designated the New Jersey State Shell.

8 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill designates the shell of the knobbed whelk (*busycon*  
14 *carica* (gmelin)) as the New Jersey State Shell.

15 Commonly referred to as the conch shell, the shell of the  
16 knobbed whelk is large, solid and pear-shaped, coiling from left  
17 to right, as seen from its apex. It is yellowish gray in color, with  
18 brownish purple axial streaks in juveniles. The shell's interior is  
19 usually cream colored, orange yellow or brick red.

20 The knobbed whelk which inhabits the shell is the largest of the  
21 northern gastropods and may grow to between 3 and 16 inches in  
22 length. It is a carnivore and scavenger which often uses its a  
23 rasping, tongue-like structure to drill into clam shells to feed on  
24 the animal inside.

25 Tradition holds that when the shell of the knobbed whelk is held  
26 up to the ear, the roar of the ocean may be heard.

27 The shell is found on all of the beaches and bays of New Jersey,  
28 and as such, is worthy of being named the State Shell.

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33 Designates the shell of knobbed whelk the New Jersey State Shell.

ASSEMBLY STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 741

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 1994

The Assembly State Government Committee reports favorably Senate, No. 741.

This bill designates the shell of the knobbed whelk (*Busycon carica* (Gmelin)) as the New Jersey State Shell.

Commonly referred to as the conch shell, the shell of the knobbed whelk is large, solid and pear-shaped, coiling from left to right, as seen from its apex. It is yellowish gray in color, with brownish purple axial streaks in juveniles. The shell's interior is usually cream colored, orange yellow or brick red.

The knobbed whelk that inhabits the shell is the largest of the northern gastropods and may grow to between 3 and 16 inches in length. It is a carnivore and scavenger, often using its rasping, tongue-like structure to drill into clam shells to feed on the animal inside.

The shell is found on all of the beaches and bays of New Jersey. Tradition holds that when the shell of the knobbed whelk is held up to the ear, the roar of the ocean may be heard.

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES, TRADE AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 741

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 21, 1994

The Senate Natural Resources, Trade and Economic Development Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 741.

This bill designates the shell of the knobbed whelk (*Busycon carica* (Gmelin)) as the New Jersey State Shell.

Commonly referred to as the conch shell, the shell of the knobbed whelk is large, solid and pear-shaped, coiling from left to right, as seen from its apex. It is yellowish gray in color, with brownish purple axial streaks in juveniles. The shell's interior is usually cream colored, orange yellow or brick red.

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The shell is found on all of the beaches and bays of New Jersey. Tradition holds that when the shell of the knobbed whelk is held up to the ear, the roar of the ocean may be heard.