

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

Legislative Document

No. 895

S.P. 303

In Senate, February 22, 2005

**An Act To Expand the Authority of Maine's Lobster Management
Policy Councils**

Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Joy J. O'Brien'.

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAMON of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative PINGREE of North Haven and
Senators: President EDMONDS of Cumberland, SULLIVAN of York, Representatives:
EMERY of Cutler, PERCY of Phippsburg, WHEELER of Kittery.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6447, sub-§5-C is enacted to read:**

6 **5-C. Lobster management policy council authority.**

8 Notwithstanding any other provision in this subchapter, upon approval in a referendum under subsection 6, a lobster management policy council as defined in rules adopted by the commissioner may propose to the commissioner rules for a lobster management policy council that do any or all of the following:

12 A. Increase the length of time an apprentice must be enrolled in the apprentice program up to a maximum of 5 years. A rule that increases the length of enrollment does not apply to apprentices enrolled in the program at the time that rule takes effect;

16 B. Require a sponsor of an apprentice to have held a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license for at least 5 years; and

20 C. Require that a person who has completed an apprenticeship may enter a particular lobster zone only if the apprentice apprenticed in that zone.

24 **SUMMARY**

26
28 This bill expands the lobster management policy council authority to propose rules, upon approval in a referendum in the management zone in which the rules would apply, to increase the length of time an apprentice must be enrolled in the apprentice program up to a maximum of 5 years; to specify that a sponsor of an apprentice must have held a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license for at least 5 years; and to require that a person who completed an apprenticeship may enter a particular lobster zone only if the apprentice apprenticed in that zone.