

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ROS

L.D. 971

Date: 5/22/25

(Filing No. H-263)

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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STATE OF MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 132ND LEGISLATURE FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 631, L.D. 971, "An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding Checking Baitfish Traps"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Checking of Baitfish Traps'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12555, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §265 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

1. Prohibition Checking baitfish traps. While trapping for baitfish in the inland waters with the use of a baitfish trap as defined in section 10001, subsection 7 from April 2nd to October 31st, a person shall check the baitfish trap or cause the baitfish trap to be checked at least once in every 7 calendar days. While trapping for baitfish in the inland waters with the use of a baitfish trap from November 1st to April 1st, a person shall check the baitfish trap or cause the baitfish trap to be checked at least once in every 21 calendar days.

Sec. 2. Report. The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall submit a report related to the baitfish trap checking requirements under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 12555, subsection 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by January 1, 2029. The report must include information on whether increasing the time permitted between baitfish trap checks from November 1st to April 1st has led to any biological consequences or enforcement challenges. The report must also include information on reported complaints and accidents, if any, and may include recommendations for suggested legislation. The committee may report out a bill based on the report to the 134th Legislature in 2029.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. It amends the law regarding checking baitfish traps by increasing the amount of time permitted between baitfish trap checks from 7 calendar days to 21 calendar days from November 1st to April 1st. The amendment also directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to submit a report concerning this change to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by January 1, 2029 and authorizes the committee to report out a bill based on the report to the 134th Legislature in 2029.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



Approved: 04/18/25 **LRL**

132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 971

LR 1168(02)

An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding Checking Baitfish Traps

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment

Committee: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

"A" (H-263)

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Minor savings - General Fund

Minor revenue decrease - General Fund

Minor revenue decrease - Other Special Revenue Funds

Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

There may be some minor reduction of workload associated with the minimal number of cases that will no longer be filed in the court system. Reductions in the collection of fines will decrease General Fund or other dedicated revenue by minor amounts.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Any additional costs to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from the provisions of this bill are expected to be minor and can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.