

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/27/25

(Filing No. S-158)

## MAJORITY

### INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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#### STATE OF MAINE

#### SENATE

#### 132ND LEGISLATURE

#### FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 559, L.D. 1343, "An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Wildlife"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1.

Amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 29-A in paragraph B in the first line (page 1, line 14 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "sport" and inserting the following: 'sustainable use'

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 3 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §10050 is enacted to read:

#### §10050. Right to harvest fish and wildlife

The Legislature recognizes that the harvesting of fish and wildlife by hunting, fishing or trapping is a valued part of the cultural heritage of this State. The Legislature further recognizes that these activities perform an essential role in the State's economy and in funding the State's management programs for game and nongame species. Such activities also perform an important and sometimes critical role in the biological management of certain fish and wildlife habitats as well as minimizing disease and conflicts with people within this State.

In recognition of this cultural heritage and the tradition of stewardship it embodies; in recognition of the important role that the harvesting of fish and wildlife by hunting, fishing or trapping perform in this State's economy and in the preservation and management of the State's fish and wildlife populations; and pursuant to the right to food as declared in the Constitution of Maine, Article I, Section 25, the Legislature declares that the people of this State have the right to harvest fish and wildlife by hunting, fishing or trapping, subject to the applicable laws, rules and regulations authorized pursuant to this Title, which the department shall vigorously enforce.'

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

**SUMMARY**

This amendment makes the following changes to the bill. It:

1. Removes the section of the bill that provides a definition of the verb "harvest" for the marine resources laws;

2. Amends the definition of the verb "harvest" in the bill in the inland fisheries and wildlife laws to clarify that "harvest" means to catch, trap, hunt, fish, take or kill for sustainable use, not for sport; and

3. Adds language to clarify that the people of the State have the right to harvest fish as well as wildlife.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

(See attached)



Approved: 05/02/25 **LRL**

# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1343

LR 495(02)

An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Wildlife

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" 15-158  
Committee: Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

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## Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

### Fiscal Detail and Notes

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