

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

AS PASSED BY THE

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 7, 2026 to APRIL 29, 2026

THE GENERAL EFFECTIVE DATE FOR
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
NONEMERGENCY LAWS IS
JULY 29, 2026

PUBLISHED BY THE REVISOR OF STATUTES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MAINE REVISED STATUTES,
TITLE 3, SECTION 163-A, SUBSECTION 4.

Augusta, Maine
2026

§12511. Permit to introduce fish or ~~fish-eggs gametes~~ into private pond

1. Permit required. Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to this Part, a person may not introduce fish or ~~fish-eggs gametes~~ into a private pond without a valid permit issued under this section.

1-A. Penalty. A person who violates subsection 1 commits a Class E crime, except that, notwithstanding Title 17-A, section 1704, the fine may not be less than \$1,000 or more than \$10,000.

1-B. Restitution. In the case of a person who violates subsection 1, the court shall:

A. Order that person to pay the department an amount equal to the cost of labor, equipment, chemicals and all other related expenses directly associated with mitigating or reclaiming waters affected as a result of the violation; and

B. Direct that person to provide the commissioner, upon making full payment as ordered by the court under paragraph A, proof of that payment.

2. Issuance. The commissioner may issue a written permit to introduce fish or ~~fish-eggs gametes~~ into a private pond.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §12607, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by Pt. D, §7 and c. 614, §9, is amended by amending the section headnote to read:

§12607. Unlawfully introducing department-raised fish or ~~fish-spawn gametes~~

Sec. 6. 12 MRSA §12607, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 414, Pt. A, §2 and affected by c. 614, §9, is amended to read:

1. Prohibition. A person may not introduce fish or ~~fish-spawn gametes~~ raised by the department into a private pond, unless the department permits the introduction for fishing events held in conjunction with educational or special programs sanctioned by the department.

Sec. 7. 12 MRSA §12663-B, sub-§4, ¶A, as enacted by PL 2025, c. 132, §6, is amended to read:

A. A person may not sell or offer for sale a lead sinker or ~~unpainted~~ lead jig that: weighs one ounce or less or measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

(1) ~~Weights one ounce or less; or~~

(2) ~~Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.~~

Sec. 8. 12 MRSA §12664, sub-§2, as amended by PL 2025, c. 132, §7, is further amended to read:

2. Unlawful use. This subsection governs the use of lead sinkers and lead jigs.

~~A. A person may not:~~

~~(3) Beginning September 1, 2026, use a painted lead jig.~~

A-1. ~~A Prior to September 1, 2026, a person may not use a lead sinker or unpainted lead jig that:~~

(1) ~~Weights one ounce or less; or~~

(2) ~~Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.~~

A-2. Beginning September 1, 2026, a person may not use a lead sinker or lead jig that:

(1) Weights one ounce or less; or

(2) Measures 2 1/2 inches or less in length.

B. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

C. A person who violates this subsection after having been adjudicated as having committed 3 or more civil violations under this Part within the previous 5-year period commits a Class E crime.

See title page for effective date.

CHAPTER 564**H.P. 1382 - L.D. 2069**

**An Act Designating July 21st as
Maine Commercial Fishing
Remembrance Day**

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

Sec. 1. 1 MRSA §150-Z is enacted to read:

§150-Z. Maine Commercial Fishing Remembrance Day

July 21st of each year is designated as Maine Commercial Fishing Remembrance Day, and the Governor shall annually issue a proclamation honoring and recognizing those individuals who have lost their lives fishing for lobsters or scallops, digging clams or actively participating in any other commercial fishery in the State.

See title page for effective date.