

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
MARINE RESOURCES**

July 2022

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

LD 1770 An Act to Create a Commercial Halibut Fishing License

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 627 removes halibut from the general commercial fishing license and creates a separate commercial halibut fishing license and halibut tags. The bill preserves an exemption from the licensing requirement for halibut fishing for personal use.

LD 1844 An Act To Amend Provisions in the Laws Governing Aquaculture Leases

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 557 does the following:

1. It authorizes the Department of Marine Resources to hold an emergency aquaculture lease for shellfish without having to also hold a lease issued under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6072 or 6072-A;
2. It authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to issue a marine organism aquaculture license for more than one calendar year; and
3. It clarifies that, for purposes of a research or aquaculture lease to construct or operate in coastal waters a facility for the suspended culture of marine organisms, “suspended culture” includes all forms of culture except for the placement of marine organisms on the ocean bottom without the use of gear of any type.

LD 1908 An Act to Limit Eligibility for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 670 limits eligibility for commercial menhaden fishing licenses, beginning in 2023, to those individuals who:

1. Held a license to fish commercially for menhaden in at least two of the following three years, 2019, 2020 or 2021; and
2. Report legal landings to the Department of Marine Resources, by January 1, 2023, of 25,000 pounds or more in at least one of the following four years, 2019, 2020, 2021 or 2022.

The Department of Marine Resources is required to report details on the implementation of this law to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters by January 15, 2023.