

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

August 2025

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STAFF:

ANNE DAVISON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

LD 44 An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Elver Fishing

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 225 allows the Commissioner of Marine Resources to require certain applicants for an elver fishing license to complete an educational course and gives the commissioner the authority to withhold up to 1% of the available overall annual elver quota for the State before allocating any portion of the overall annual quota.

LD 64 An Act to Eliminate the Cultchless American Oyster Growers License

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 227 repeals the cultchless American oyster growers license and specifies that a person may not take, possess or sell cultchless American oysters when more than 20% of a bulk pile is composed of cultchless American oysters, subject to a limited number of exceptions to the 20% tolerance.

LD 144 An Act to Create a Limited Retail Seafood Harvester Certificate

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 82 creates a limited retail seafood harvester certificate, which may be attached to a retail seafood license. This certificate allows the holder to sell shellstock the holder has taken from only one vehicle identified on the holder's license. The certificate is available for a fee of \$50, which must be deposited in the Shellfish Fund.

Public Law 2025, chapter 82 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 23, 2025.

LD 214 An Act to Create a For-hire Charter Boat Operator License and to Require Individuals Recreationally Fishing for Halibut in Coastal Waters to Register with the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 155 creates a new requirement for individuals who take paying customers recreationally fishing for fish in the coastal waters of the State to obtain a for-hire charter boat operator's license. The license is available only to an individual holding a current guide license for tidewater fishing or who is a captain of a vessel holding a valid and current certificate of inspection issued by the United States Coast Guard. It also eliminates exceptions from having to register with the saltwater registry for individuals fishing recreationally for halibut.