

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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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

LD 1176 An Act to Provide for the Sustainable Management of Marine Resources and Create a Noncommercial Northern Shrimp License

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 244 amends the sustainable development of emerging fisheries law to allow the Commissioner of Marine Resources to require an endorsement on a fishing license for an emerging fishery for a species whose harvest is currently authorized under the commercial pelagic and anadromous fishing license. It also removes a license exemption for the taking of northern shrimp for personal use and creates a resident noncommercial northern shrimp license at a cost of \$20, which is deposited in the Shrimp Management Fund.

LD 1253 An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Add Limited-access Area Fishing Days During the Scallop Season

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 160 allows the Commissioner of Marine Resources to extend the scallop fishing season by up to a total of five limited-access area days during the scallop season through emergency rulemaking if the commissioner determines that additional days are necessary to counteract the inability to fish for scallops on certain days due to inclement weather as long as the scallop population is sufficient to allow additional scallop fishing in those areas.

LD 1279 Resolve, Establishing the Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 115 establishes the Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program and directs the Department of Marine Resources to oversee the program. Resolve 2025, chapter 115 specifies that the program operates for a two-year period with the aim of conducting biotoxin testing of whole cultured scallops or the roe of cultured scallops in the same manner as the testing for other cultured mollusks under the Marine Shellfish Toxins Monitoring Program. Resolve 2025, chapter 115 requires the department to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters on each year of the program, by January 1, 2027 and January 1, 2028, detailing the number of commercial fisheries businesses using the testing offered by the pilot program, the overall impact on the scallop aquaculture industry, including economic growth and cultured scallop landings, and recommendations for further improvements or expansions of the testing. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the 2028 report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.