

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 1319 An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Suspension of Licenses Issued by the Department of Marine Resources for Failure to Comply with Reporting Requirements

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 246 makes changes to the process for license or certificate suspension for failing to comply with daily reporting requirements by harvesters of marine organisms. Specifically, Public Law 2025, chapter 246 changes the period of time a license or certificate holder has to comply with the reporting requirements before notice of suspension is mailed from 24 hours to two days; removes language that authorized the Commissioner of Marine Resources to serve the notice of suspension in hand; clarifies that the notice of suspension must state that a license or certificate will be suspended three business days after the license or certificate holder's receipt of the notice; and changes from one calendar day to three business days the period of time a license or certificate holder has upon receipt of the notice of suspension to comply with the reporting requirements or to request a hearing before the license or certificate is suspended.

LD 1341 Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Evaluate How to Effectively Allow 2 Licensed Individuals to Fish for Lobsters or Scallops from a Single Vessel

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 49 directs the Department of Marine Resources to evaluate how two licensed individuals may fish for or take lobsters or scallops from a single vessel concurrently without this resulting in an increased harvest and to report back on their review to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by March 1, 2026.

LD 1503 An Act to Create a Green Crab Only Wholesale Dealer License

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 169 establishes a green crab only wholesale dealer license that allows a license holder to, in wholesale trade, buy, sell, process, ship or transport green crabs purchased directly from harvesters in this State. The license fee for a green crab only wholesale dealer license is \$50, which must be deposited in the Green Crab Management Fund. A wholesale dealer license expires on March 31st of each year and a license authorizes activities at only one establishment or with only one vehicle.

Public Law 2025, chapter 169 provides that a person who engages in these activities without a valid green crab only wholesale dealer license is subject to a penalty established by the Department of Marine Resources and authorizes the department to suspend or revoke a license following a violation.

Public Law 2025, chapter 169 includes a sunset provision, which repeals the law January 1, 2031. Public Law 2025, chapter 169 directs the department to conduct a review of the effectiveness of

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the green crab only wholesale dealer license prior to the repeal date. The department is required to submit to the 134th Legislature in 2030 a report of the review, including any recommendations to continue or modify the license.

LD 1561 Resolve, Regarding the Percentage of a Lobster and Crab Fishing Licensee's Lobster Traps That May Be Fished in a Lobster Management Zone Listed on the License as a Secondary Zone

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 65 directs the Department of Marine Resources to seek input from the lobster management policy councils regarding what percentage of a lobster and crab fishing licensee's lobster traps a licensee may fish in a lobster management zone that is listed on the licensee's license as a zone in which the licensee intends to fish some lobster traps, but is not designated as the zone in which the licensee intends to fish the majority of the licensee's lobster traps, also known as a secondary zone. The department must use the input received from the councils to develop recommendations regarding the percentage of traps that may be fished in a secondary zone. The department must submit a report, including its recommendations, to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources no later than December 3, 2025. The law authorizes the committee to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

LD 1595 An Act to Strengthen Working Waterfronts Against Nuisance Complaints Regarding Aquaculture

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 249 amends the law that prohibits private nuisance actions against a person engaged in a commercial fishing activity or commercial fishing operation to include activities associated with aquaculture and commercial fisheries businesses, which include enterprises concerned with the commercial harvest of wild or aquacultured marine organisms.

LD 1596 Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Submit a Report on the Findings and Recommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Council

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 102 directs the Department of Marine Resources to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources no later than January 1, 2026 with findings and recommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Council and the council's subcommittees. The focus of the report must be the council's findings and recommendations related to deliberations concerning changes to the aquaculture leasing process. The law authorizes the committee to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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