

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
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

August 2025

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

LD 1548 An Act to Prevent the Introduction or Transfer of Invasive Fish Species in Inland Waters of the State

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 343 increases the suspension and revocation of a fishing license from five years to 10 years for the following three offenses: failing to acquire a permit to import live freshwater fish or eggs except for live baitfish or smelts; failure to acquire a permit to stock inland waters; and failure to acquire a permit to import live fish taken within the State. It reduces the mandatory suspension of a fishing license for the violation of illegal possession of live fish from five years to one year. It adds mandatory restitution for failing to acquire a permit to stock inland waters and failing to acquire a permit to introduce fish or fish eggs into a private pond, and directs the court to order an offender to pay the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 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 a violation and requires the offender to provide the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife proof of that payment.

Previously, the law required a permit to transport live fish for breeding and advertising. Public Law 2025, chapter 343 eliminates the specific activities of breeding and advertising so the permit is required more generally for transport of live fish except for live baitfish and smelts taken within the State.

Public Law 2025, chapter 343 creates a prohibition for disposal of live baitfish or smelts into inland waters, which is a civil violation. It also changes references to gametes and fish spawn to fish eggs.

LD 1623 An Act to Amend Certain Fish and Wildlife Laws Related to Landowner Representation Regarding Abandoned Property

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 267 allows a landowner's representative to act on behalf of a landowner regarding the placement of a ladder, an observation stand, a camera or electronic surveillance equipment or the operation of an all-terrain vehicle on the landowner's property. It requires persons operating all-terrain vehicles upon the land of another to stop and identify themselves upon the request of the lessee of the land. It provides that a landowner, lessee or landowner's representative may limit in writing the use of a designated state-approved ATV trail on that landowner's or lessee's property. It provides that if a landowner or landowner's representative finds an abandoned ladder, an observation stand, a camera or electronic surveillance equipment on the landowner's land in violation of law and the owner of the ladder, observation stand, camera or electronic surveillance equipment is unknown, the landowner or the landowner's representative may take ownership of the abandoned ladder, observation stand, camera or electronic surveillance