

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 1708 An Act to Create the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund to Further Develop Training and Provide Equipment to Recover Ships and Other Watercraft and Persons in Distress or Lost at Sea

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 251 establishes the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund within the Department of Marine Resources to support activities related to improving safety in the commercial fishing industry and improving the department's ability to conduct search and rescue and recovery operations, including the acquisition of necessary equipment.

LD 1722 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Regulation of Aquaculture Leases

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 389 amends provisions of law governing aquaculture leases. Public Law 2025, chapter 389 makes changes to the lease renewal process to clarify that a lease renewal is not an adjudicatory proceeding and that, if a renewal application is received late, but no more than 30 days after the expiration date, the application may still be considered if the applicant pays a nonrefundable late fee of \$500 or if the Commissioner of Marine Resources waives the late fee because the applicant provides evidence of a substantial illness or medical condition that prevented the applicant from submitting the application on time. Public Law 2025, chapter 389 also changes from 30 days to 120 days the number of days it takes for a lease to expire after the Commissioner of Marine Resources makes a decision about a lease renewal; increases the number of people who must be notified of a completed renewal application to include the owners of riparian land within 1,000 feet of the proposed lease and the municipal officers of the municipality in which the lease is located; and makes changes to the scientific lease renewal process.

Public Law 2025, chapter 389 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 20, 2025.