

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 1649

S.P. 526

In Senate, March 15, 2001

An Act to Establish a Commercial Green Crab Fishing License.

Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 204.
Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LEMONT of York.
Cosponsored by Representative LEMOINE of Old Orchard Beach.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §§6808 to 6810 are enacted to read:

4 **§6808. Commercial green crab only license**

6 1. License required. It is unlawful for a person to engage
8 in the activities authorized by this license under this section
10 without a current commercial green crab only license.

12 2. Licensed activities. The holder of a commercial green
14 crab only license may fish for or take green crabs or possess,
16 ship, transport or sell green crabs that the license holder has
18 taken.

20 3. Reporting; rules. The commissioner shall adopt rules
22 regarding data that the holder of a commercial green crab license
24 must submit to the department. The commissioner may deny an
26 application for the renewal of a license issued under this
28 section if the license holder fails to report the information
30 required pursuant to this subsection. Rules adopted by the
32 commissioner pursuant to this subsection are routine technical
34 rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

36 4. Exemption. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a license is
38 not required to fish for, take, possess or transport green crabs
40 for personal use. A municipality that harvests green crabs under
42 authorization from the department is not required to have a
44 commercial green crab license as long as the harvesting of green
46 crabs occurs under supervision of the municipality.

48 5. Eligibility. A commercial green crab only license may be
50 issued only to an individual.

52 6. Fees. The fee for a commercial green crab only license
54 is \$33 for a resident license and \$66 for a nonresident license,
56 which authorizes the license holder to engage in the licensed
58 activities under subsection 2.

60 7. Disposition of fees. All fees for commercial green crab
62 only licenses must be deposited in the Green Crab Management Fund
64 established in section 6809.

66 8. Prohibition. The holder of a commercial green crab only
68 license may not have aboard a boat used for crab fishing any
70 lobster or lobster parts.

72 **§6809. Green Crab Management Fund**

74 1. Fund established. The Green Crab Management Fund,
76 referred to in this section as the "fund," is established as a
78 dedicated, nonlapsing fund within the department.

2 2. Purposes of fund. The commissioner shall use the fund
4 for research and management programs for the green crab fishery.

6 3. Source of revenue. In addition to the fees derived from
8 the commercial green crab license, the fund may receive money
from any source for the purposes described in subsection 2.

10 **§6810. Method of fishing**

12 1. Authorized traps. It is unlawful to fish for green crabs
14 under a license issued pursuant to subsection 6808 with traps not
authorized by the commissioner.

16 2. Trap design; rules. The commissioner shall establish
18 authorized green crab trap designs by rule. Rules adopted by the
commissioner pursuant to this subsection are routine technical
rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A.

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SUMMARY

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24 This bill establishes a new license that allows an
individual to fish for green crabs. Currently, only individuals
26 who possess a lobster and crab fishing license may legally fish
for crabs. This bill prohibits fishing for green crabs except
with gear approved by the Commissioner of Marine Resources.

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30 This bill also establishes a dedicated fund into which
revenues from the sale of green crab fishing licenses would be
deposited.