

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2003

Legislative Document

No. 1000

S.P. 344

In Senate, February 25, 2003

An Act To Establish a Policy for Inland Fishing Rules

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 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 CARPENTER of York.
Cosponsored by Representative DUNLAP of Old Town.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7551, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

6 **4. Prioritization of restrictions.** In using the
8 rule-making authority granted under this Part to provide
10 protection to fish populations, the commissioner shall prioritize
12 the methods by which restrictions are implemented according to
14 the following, with the first-listed as the first method to be
16 implemented and the last-listed as the last method to be
18 implemented:

20 A. Imposing bag limits and length restrictions that, to the
22 extent possible, apply equally to open water and ice fishing;

24 B. Imposing gear restrictions; and

26 C. Shortening seasons.

28 **SUMMARY**

30 This bill establishes guidelines for the Commissioner of
32 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife when enacting new fishing rules to
set up the preferred order of restrictions. Under the bill, bag
limits or length restrictions should be the first method employed
to protect fish, and such restrictions should apply equally to
open water and ice fishing. When the desired object can not be
achieved through bag limits and length restrictions, then the
next method should be gear restrictions. The method of last
resort should be restrictions of opportunity by shortening
seasons.