

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2005

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Legislative Document

No. 1104

H.P. 757

House of Representatives, March 1, 2005

**An Act To Design and Implement a Pilot Program for Improved  
Fishing on Mount Desert Island That May Serve as a Model for  
Maine**

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Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

*Millicent M. MacFarland*  
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND  
Clerk

Presented by Representative KOFFMAN of Bar Harbor.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6136** is enacted to read:

6 **§6136. Alewife management; Mount Desert Island**

8 The commissioner, in consultation with the Department of  
10 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, shall adopt rules to restore fish  
12 passage and manage alewives in Long Pond, Mount Desert Island.

14 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §10108, sub-§12** is enacted to read:

16 **12. Mount Desert Island fisheries management program.** The  
18 commissioner shall establish a fisheries management program for  
20 the purpose of reestablishing salmon, brook trout and alewife  
22 fisheries on Mount Desert Island.

24 A. The commissioner shall develop and implement the program  
26 in collaboration with the Department of Marine Resources and  
28 other appropriate federal, state and local government  
30 entities.

32 B. In establishing the program, the commissioner shall:

34 (1) Adopt rules to restore, enhance and protect wild  
36 and stocked landlocked salmon that include, but are not  
38 limited to, a daily catch limit of 2 salmon with only  
40 one fish exceeding 24 inches and a requirement that any  
42 salmon between 20 and 24 inches be released alive. The  
44 rules must address, but are not limited to, issues  
46 concerning Long Pond and Echo Lake;

48 (2) Adopt rules to restore, enhance and protect wild  
brook trout that include, but are not limited to, a  
minimum length limit of 8 inches for keeping brook  
trout; and

(3) Develop and implement a plan to minimize the  
negative impact of competing species on salmon, brook  
trout and alewives.

C. The commissioner shall work with appropriate federal,  
state and local government entities to the maximum extent  
possible to implement the program. At a minimum, the  
commissioner shall make recommendations to appropriate  
federal, state and local government entities regarding  
salmon in Eagle Lake and Jordan Pond and brook trout in  
streams within Acadia National Park.

2 D. The Commissioner of Marine Resources, in consultation  
3 with the department, shall adopt rules to restore fish  
4 passage and manage alewives in Long Pond.

5 E. The commissioner, in collaboration with the Department of  
6 Marine Resources and in consultation with appropriate  
7 federal, state and local government entities, shall prepare  
8 and submit an annual evaluation report to the joint standing  
9 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland  
10 fisheries and wildlife matters and the joint standing  
11 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine  
12 resources matters. The report must address, but is not  
13 limited to, the impact of the fisheries management program  
14 on fish ecology, angler satisfaction, tourism and the  
15 regional economy. The report must include findings and  
16 recommendations on the applicability of the program to the  
17 improved management of state recreational fishing. The  
18 first annual report is due March 31, 2006.

19 Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical  
20 rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

21 **Sec. 3. Program development.** The development of the  
22 fisheries management program pursuant to the Maine Revised  
23 Statutes, Title 12, section 10108, subsection 12 must begin 120  
24 days following adjournment of the First Regular Session of the  
25 122nd Legislature and the program must be fully implemented 2  
26 years after that date.  
27

### 30 SUMMARY

31 This bill establishes a pilot fisheries management program  
32 to restore, enhance and protect salmon, brook trout and alewives  
33 in the inland waters of Mount Desert Island and to serve as a  
34 possible model statewide. The Department of Inland Fisheries and  
35 Wildlife is required to develop and implement the program in  
36 collaboration with the Department of Marine Resources and other  
37 appropriate federal, state and local government entities. The  
38 bill requires annual evaluation reports of the program to be  
39 submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature  
40 having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters  
41 and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having  
42 jurisdiction over marine resources matters beginning March 31,  
43 2006.  
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