

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 720

H.P. 503

House of Representatives, February 24, 2009

An Act To Permit the Commercial Harvesting of Illegal and Nuisance Fish Species

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative PRATT of Eddington.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, BERRY of Bowdoinham, BRIGGS of Mexico, CRAY of Palmyra, GIFFORD of Lincoln, PIOTTI of Unity, SAVIELLO of Wilton.

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

2 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12405 is enacted to read:

3 **§12405. Inland waters commercial fishing license; illegally stocked and nuisance**
4 **fish species**

5 The commissioner shall create an inland waters commercial fishing license that
6 permits the harvest of illegally stocked fish or nuisance fish species from inland waters
7 and allows the license holder to sell those fish or use those fish for commercial purposes.
8 The commissioner shall adopt rules to administer the license, identify nuisance fish
9 species and set the license fee. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine
10 technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11 For purposes of this section, "illegally stocked fish" means fish that were introduced
12 into the inland waters without a valid permit issued under section 12510.

13 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12609-A, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §271
14 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

15 1. **Prohibition.** Except as provided in section 12405 and as otherwise provided in
16 this section, a person may not directly or indirectly purchase or sell the following species
17 of fish:

- 18 A. Black bass;
- 19 B. Landlocked salmon;
- 20 C. Pickerel;
- 21 D. Togue;
- 22 E. Trout; or
- 23 F. White perch.

24 **SUMMARY**

25 This bill directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to create an
26 inland waters commercial fishing license that allows the holder to harvest illegally
27 introduced and nuisance fish species from the inland waters of the State for commercial
28 purposes.