

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 807**

S.P. 315

In Senate, March 3, 2009

### **An Act To Improve and Promote Maine's Landlocked Salmon Resources**

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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 DAMON of Hancock.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DAVIS of Sangerville, DUCHESNE of Hudson, EBERLE of South Portland, PERCY of Phippsburg, PERRY of Calais, SAVIELLO of Wilton, WATSON of Bath, WELSH of Rockport.

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

2 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12462 is enacted to read:

3 §12462. Management of landlocked salmon

4 1. Salmon management. By October 1, 2009, the commissioner shall:

5 A. Initiate a pilot project to stock Echo Lake and Eagle Lake on Mount Desert Island  
6 with fall fingerling hatchery salmon on an alternate-year basis; and

7 B. Initiate the rule-making process to restrict salmon fishing to catch and release on  
8 one or more waters where salmon is the primary fishery.

9 2. Large landlocked salmon. By July 1, 2014, the commissioner shall manage no  
10 fewer than 75 inland waters to ensure that a significant portion of the landlocked salmon  
11 populations within those waters contain salmon that exceed 4 pounds in weight.

12 3. Report. Beginning January 15, 2010, the commissioner shall report annually by  
13 January 15th to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over  
14 inland fisheries and wildlife matters about the progress made toward meeting the  
15 requirements of this section.

16 Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,  
17 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

18 **Sec. 2. Experimental landlocked salmon brood stock program.** By October  
19 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall initiate a 5-year  
20 experimental program to enhance salmon brood stock by taking salmon eggs exclusively  
21 from salmon brood stock that is 5 years of age or older and develop a new salmon brood  
22 stock source composed of wild salmon. During the program, the Commissioner of Inland  
23 Fisheries and Wildlife shall provide no later than January 15th annually to the joint  
24 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and  
25 wildlife matters an update on the program.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill provides that by no later than July 1, 2014 that no fewer than 75 inland  
28 waters containing landlocked salmon will be managed to produce salmon that exceed 4  
29 pounds in weight. It also provides that, by October 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Inland  
30 Fisheries and Wildlife will initiate:

31 1. A pilot project to stock Echo Lake and Eagle Lake on Mount Desert Island with  
32 only fall fingerling hatchery salmon on an alternate-year basis; and

33 2. The rule-making process to restrict salmon fishing to catch and release on one or  
34 more waters where salmon is the primary fishery.

35 Finally, this bill provides that, by October 1, 2009, the Commissioner of Inland  
36 Fisheries and Wildlife will initiate a 5-year experimental program to enhance landlocked

1 salmon brood stock by taking landlocked salmon eggs from salmon brood stock that is 5  
2 years of age or older and develop a new landlocked salmon brood stock source composed  
3 of wild salmon.