

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 811

H.P. 562

House of Representatives, March 5, 2013

An Act To Provide Guidance for the Development of Marine Fisheries Management Plans

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

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative DEVIN of Newcastle.
Cosponsored by Senator WOODBURY of Cumberland and
Representative: KRUGER of Thomaston.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6171, sub-§2-A**, as enacted by PL 1979, c. 404, is repealed
3 and the following enacted in its place:

4 **2-A. Management plans.** The commissioner may adopt a management plan or other
5 policy on the conservation or regulation of marine organisms only after prior notice and
6 public hearing and with the advice and consent of the Marine Resources Advisory
7 Council under section 6024.

8 A. A management plan is a guidance document, which must seek to:

- 9 (1) Establish management goals and a long-term vision for the relevant fishery;
10 (2) Ensure the long-term viability of the resource and the relevant fishery;
11 (3) Provide for the rebuilding of any depleted fisheries;
12 (4) Provide for future opportunities and access to the relevant fishery;
13 (5) Provide the greatest overall benefit to the State, including biological,
14 economic and social considerations; and
15 (6) Preserve the legacy of the seafood industry in the State and its benefits to the
16 people of the State.

17 B. A management plan must include, to the degree possible:

- 18 (1) Clearly articulated management goals and objectives;
19 (2) A description of the biology of the relevant species;
20 (3) A description of the relevant fishery;
21 (4) Any available information regarding stock status;
22 (5) Current management measures;
23 (6) Any recommendations to achieve goals and objectives; and
24 (7) Findings of current research and future research needs.

25 C. A management plan must be developed with advice and input from the advisory
26 council for the species for which the plan is developed, if such an advisory council
27 exists.

28 **SUMMARY**

29 This bill establishes general requirements for the development of fisheries
30 management plans by the Commissioner of Marine Resources, including objectives plans
31 must seek to address and the management and scientific content for the plans. The bill
32 also provides that the commissioner may adopt a management plan or other policy on the
33 conservation or regulation of marine organisms only after prior notice and public hearing
34 and with the advice and consent of the Marine Resources Advisory Council. The bill
35 requires that a management plan be developed with advice and input from the advisory
36 council for the species for which the plan is developed, if such an advisory council exists.