

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 149

H.P. 107

House of Representatives, January 19, 2017

**An Act To Provide Additional Management for Limited-entry
Lobster Zones**

Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

Robert B. Hunt
ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HUBBELL of Bar Harbor.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill proposes to consider amending the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes,
6 Title 12, section 6448 to include additional management policies to properly manage
7 fishing effort and equity of access in limited-entry lobster management zones, including:

8 1. Prohibiting a person holding a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab
9 fishing license who was not holding a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab
10 fishing license before the bill's effective date from fishing lobster traps in a limited-entry
11 zone that is not the license holder's declared lobster zone;

12 2. Prohibiting a person holding a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab
13 fishing license from fishing more than 25% of the license holder's lobster traps in a
14 limited-entry zone that is not the license holder's declared lobster zone;

15 3. Prohibiting a person holding a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab
16 fishing license from fishing more than 25% of the license holder's lobster traps in a
17 limited-entry zone that is not the license holder's declared zone and that does not have
18 trap limits and exit ratios consistent with the license holder's declared zone;

19 4. If a person holding a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license
20 fishes lobster traps in a limited-entry zone other than the license holder's declared zone,
21 subjecting the license holder to the most restrictive management measures of both zones;
22 and

23 5. Requiring the Commissioner of Marine Resources to review annually rules
24 regarding the relative number of 2nd-zone tags that have been fished in each limited-
25 entry zone and allowing the commissioner to propose rule changes to the Department of
26 Marine Resources lobster trap tag system rules to ensure parity of zone access and
27 stability of zone effort related to double tagging.