

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 199

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H.P. 155

House of Representatives, January 24, 2017

### **An Act To Implement Decibel Limits for Mechanical Rockweed Harvesters**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.  
Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and  
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, BATTLE of South Portland,  
BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, BERRY of Bowdoinham, BLUME of York, Senators:  
CARSON of Cumberland, CHENETTE of York.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6001, sub-§37-C** is enacted to read:

3 **37-C. Rockweed.** "Rockweed" means the species of seaweed *Ascophyllum*  
4 *nodosum*.

5 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6803-D** is enacted to read:

6 **§6803-D. Rockweed harvester decibel limits**

7 **1. Prohibition.** A person may not use a mechanical device to harvest rockweed that  
8 emits a sound that exceeds the decibel limit established pursuant to subsection 2.

9 **2. Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt rules that establish a decibel limit for sound  
10 emitted by a mechanical device used to harvest rockweed. The rules may establish  
11 different decibel limits based upon the distance from shore and the time of day the  
12 mechanical device is used to harvest rockweed. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection  
13 are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

14 **SUMMARY**

15 This bill prohibits harvesting rockweed with a mechanical rockweed harvester that  
16 emits sound louder than the decibel limits established by rules adopted by the  
17 Commissioner of Marine Resources. The rules may establish different decibel limits  
18 depending upon the distance from shore and the time of day the harvester is being used.  
19 The bill defines "rockweed" as the species of seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum*.