

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 4/11/22

L.D. 1770

(Filing No. H-977)

3 MARINE RESOURCES

4 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

5 STATE OF MAINE
6 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
7 130TH LEGISLATURE
8 SECOND REGULAR SESSION

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1321, L.D. 1770, "An Act To Create a
10 Commercial Halibut Fishing License"

11 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 5 and inserting the following:

12 'Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §6506 is enacted to read:

13 **§6506. Commercial halibut fishing license**

14 **1. License required.** Beginning January 1, 2023, a person may not engage in the
15 activities authorized under this section without a current:

16 A. Commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator;

17 B. Commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator and all crew members;

18 C. Commercial halibut fishing license for a nonresident operator and all crew members;
19 or

20 D. Commercial halibut fishing license for an operator with a federal northeast
21 multispecies groundfish permit authorizing halibut fishing for the operator and all crew
22 members.

23 **2. Licensed activity; commercial license.** The holder of a commercial halibut fishing
24 license issued under subsection 1 may fish for, take, possess, ship, transport or sell halibut
25 that the holder has taken. Crew members aboard a license holder's vessel may fish for, take,
26 possess, ship or transport halibut only if the license provides for crew members.

27 **3. Eligibility.** A commercial halibut fishing license issued under subsection 1 may be
28 issued only to an individual.

29 **4. Fees.** Fees for commercial halibut fishing licenses issued under subsection 1 are as
30 follows:

31 A. For a commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator, \$48;

32 B. For a commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator and all crew
33 members, \$128;

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C. For a commercial halibut fishing license for a nonresident operator and all crew members, \$481; and

D. For a commercial halibut fishing license for an operator with a federal northeast multispecies groundfish permit authorizing halibut fishing for the operator and all crew members, \$2.

The commissioner shall deposit fees collected pursuant to this subsection in the Halibut Fund established under section 6039.

5. Halibut tags. The holder of a commercial halibut fishing license issued under subsection 1 must annually purchase halibut tags to fish for or take halibut. A license holder may purchase an allotment of halibut tags only once per year. A vessel may have only one license holder's tags assigned to that vessel. The commissioner shall establish by rule the maximum number of halibut tags that may be issued to a license holder per year, and may establish up to 2 options for the number of tags a license holder may purchase. The commissioner may establish a fee, not to exceed \$4 per tag, for each purchase option. Unless otherwise specified in routine technical rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, the following fees apply to halibut tags:

A. For 10 halibut tags, \$10; and

B. For 25 halibut tags, \$100.

The commissioner shall deposit fees collected pursuant to this subsection in the Halibut Fund established under section 6039.'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

'**Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and allocations are made.

MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF

Bureau of Marine Science 0027

Initiative: Provides allocations for expenditures related to halibut research and for the implementation of management measures needed for the halibut fishery.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$48,500
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$48,500

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

SUMMARY

This amendment adds a commercial halibut fishing license requirement for an operator with a federal northeast multispecies groundfish permit authorizing halibut fishing for the operator and all crew members and sets the license fee at \$2 for such an operator. It permits the Commissioner of Marine Resources to establish up to 2 options for the number of halibut tags a license holder may purchase and to establish fees for the tag purchase options

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provided they do not exceed \$4 per tag. The amendment replaces the 5 tag options in the bill with 2 tag options: 10 halibut tags for \$10 and 25 halibut tags for \$100. The amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1770

LR 2190(02)

An Act To Create a Commercial Halibut Fishing License

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *"A" (H-979)*

Committee: Marine Resources

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	Projections FY 2023-24	Projections FY 2024-25
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$48,500	\$48,500	\$48,500
Revenue				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$48,500	\$48,500	\$48,500

Correctional and Judicial Impact Statements

The additional workload associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system does not require additional funding at this time. The collection of additional fines may increase General Fund or other dedicated revenue by minor amounts.

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill removes halibut from the list of species that may be fished with a commercial pelagic and anadromous fishing license and creates new commercial halibut fishing licenses and halibut tag fees (detailed below). License fee and halibut tag fee revenue will be credited to the Halibut Fund. The Department of Marine Resources estimates that between 200 to 300 individuals will choose to obtain commercial halibut licenses and the required tags, which will result in an estimated annual revenue increase to the Halibut Fund of \$48,500. The bill includes an Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$48,500 beginning in fiscal year 2022-23 to allow for expenditure of the funds.

Commercial Halibut Fishing License - Resident Operator	\$48
Commercial Halibut Fishing License - Resident Operator w/Crew	\$128
Commercial Halibut Fishing License - Nonresident Operator w/Crew	\$481
Commercial Halibut Fishing License - Operator with a federal northeast multispecies permit authorizing halibut fishing w/crew	\$2
10 halibut tags	\$10
25 halibut tags	\$100