

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2022

Legislative Document

No. 1908

H.P. 1414

House of Representatives, January 5, 2022

An Act To Limit Eligibility for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses

Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 203.
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 McDONALD of Stonington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6502-C, sub-§1-A** is enacted to read:

3 **1-A. Commercial menhaden fishing license eligibility in 2023.** The commissioner
4 may not issue a 2023 resident commercial menhaden fishing license or 2023 nonresident
5 commercial menhaden fishing license to an individual unless that individual:

6 A. Possessed a license to fish commercially for menhaden in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019,
7 2020 or 2021; and

8 B. According to department records, reported legal landings of menhaden of 25,000
9 pounds or more in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 or 2021.

10 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6502-C, sub-§1-B** is enacted to read:

11 **1-B. Commercial menhaden fishing license eligibility after 2023.** The
12 commissioner may not issue a resident commercial menhaden fishing license or a
13 nonresident commercial menhaden fishing license to an individual in any year subsequent
14 to 2023 unless that individual possessed that license in the previous calendar year.

15 **SUMMARY**

16 This bill, beginning in 2023, limits eligibility for commercial menhaden fishing
17 licenses to those individuals who held a license to fish commercially for menhaden in any
18 year from 2016 to 2021 and landed 25,000 pounds or more of menhaden in at least one of
19 those years. It provides that the Commissioner of Marine Resources may not issue a
20 resident commercial menhaden fishing license or a nonresident commercial menhaden
21 fishing license to any individual in any year subsequent to 2023 unless that individual
22 possessed that license in the previous calendar year.