

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2023

H.P. 1353

House of Representatives, December 5, 2025

Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Identify Ways to Manage Moorings on Inland Waters

Submitted by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 3, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DILL of Old Town.

Sec. 1. Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convene working group. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall convene a working group to educate those who use the State's inland waters under the public trust doctrine, explore issues related to moorings and develop proposals to manage and regulate moorings on inland waters. The working group must include, but is not limited to:

1. Two representatives of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, one of whom is a game warden representing the Maine Warden Service and one of whom represents the department's administration;

2. Three representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands, one representing inland navigational aids, one representing the submerged lands program and one representing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission;

3. One representative who owns or operates a business that provides mooring rentals;

4. One representative of the State of Maine Harbor Masters Association;

5. One representative representing a lake association; and

6. One representative of a statewide organization that represents inland waters of the State.

Sec. 2. Working group duties. Resolved: That the duties of the working group convened under section 1 must include:

1. Identifying the issues related to moorings on inland waters at both a statewide and local level and identifying potential solutions;

2. Identifying the impacts and opportunities of moorings related to public safety, the environment, property ownership, recreation, commerce and fish and wildlife; and

3. Exploring how other states that have a public trust doctrine manage moorings on inland waters.

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by November 4, 2026 with the findings and conclusions of the working group under section 2, including any recommended legislation. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to establish a working group focused on identifying issues and solutions related to moorings on inland waters. The commissioner is directed to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by November 4, 2026 with the findings and conclusions of the working group, including any recommended legislation. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit a bill related to the report to the 133rd Legislature in 2027.