

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
MARINE RESOURCES

JULY 1997

**MEMBERS:**

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*Sen. Peggy A. Pendleton*

*Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

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**Maine State Legislature**

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees  
August 1997**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

- CARRIED OVER*.....*Bill carried over to Second Regular Session*
- CON RES XXX*.....*Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses*
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....*Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died*
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....*House & Senate disagree; bill died*
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....*One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill*
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....*Action incomplete when session ended; bill died*
- EMERGENCY*.....*Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days*
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....*Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote*
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....*Bill failed to get majority vote*
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....*Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote*
- INDEF PP*.....*Bill Indefinitely Postponed*
- ONTP*.....*Ought Not To Pass report accepted*
- OTP ND*.....*Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft*
- OTP ND/NT*.....*Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title*
- P&S XXX*.....*Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law*
- PUBLIC XXX*.....*Chapter # of enacted Public Law*
- RESOLVE XXX*.....*Chapter # of finally passed Resolve*
- UNSIGNED*.....*Bill held by Governor*
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....*Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto*

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

*David E. Boulter, Director*

Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

**LD 692**

**An Act Concerning the Importation of Marine Organisms That May Be Dangerous to Indigenous Marine Life or Its Environment**

**PUBLIC 153**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ETNIER MACKINNON	OTP-AM	H-193

LD 692 proposed to allow the Commissioner of Marine Resources to embargo, condemn or order destroyed any marine organism or marine organism product when it is determined that the product is infected by any organism that may endanger indigenous marine life or its environment.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-193)** proposed to provide the Commissioner of Marine Resources authority to embargo, condemn or order destroyed any marine organism or marine organism product that, if introduced to the coastal waters, could endanger indigenous marine life or the marine environment. It also proposed to provide the Commissioner of Marine Resources authority to restrict the importation of a marine organism from a particular location when the commissioner determines that a marine organism from that location is or may be diseased or infected in any manner.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 153 provides the Commissioner of Marine Resources authority to embargo, condemn or order destroyed any marine organism or marine organism product that, if introduced to the coastal waters, could endanger indigenous marine life or the marine environment. It also provides the Commissioner of Marine Resources authority to restrict the importation of a marine organism from a particular location when the commissioner determines that a marine organism from that location is or may be diseased or infected in any manner.

**LD 722**

**An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Scallop Harvesting**

**PUBLIC 281**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODWIN	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-210 H-257 SKOGLUND

LD 722 proposed to create a scallop fishing season that lasts from December 1st to April 15th. It proposed to require that any gear-conflict prevention rules that adjust the scallop harvesting dates be applied statewide if the rules result in a more restrictive season than that of December 1st to April 15th. It also would have expanded the current dragging limitations for South Bay in Lubec to apply to all of Cobscook Bay and the Maine waters of Passamaquoddy Bay and it would have added a limit on the ring size. The limitations would have been:

1. A maximum drag width of five feet, six inches for any combination of drags;
2. A minimum ring diameter of three inches; and
3. When a drag is used to harvest scallops, a maximum drag depth of eight rings.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-210)** was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. It proposed to change the scallop season to November 16th to April 15th from the current season of November 1st to April 15th. It proposed to phase in minimum ring sizes for scallop drags, with a minimum three-inch ring diameter required starting November 16, 1997, a minimum three and one-quarter-inch ring diameter required starting November 16, 1999, and a minimum three and one-half inch ring diameter required starting November 16, 2001. The amendment also proposed to require the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt rules that limit the mesh size of net material on the top of a scallop drag, prohibit chafing gear or cookies on the top of a scallop drag, establish ring link restrictions for a scallop drag and prohibit drag or net obstructions. The amendment proposed to limit scallop drag width to five feet, six inches from November 16th to December 15th and 10 feet, six inches during the rest of the season. The amendment also proposed to limit the width for all drags in Cobscook Bay and the Maine waters of Passamaquoddy Bay to five feet, six inches. In addition, any drag used for harvesting scallops in Cobscook Bay and the Maine waters of Passamaquoddy Bay could not be greater than eight rings deep. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-257)** proposed to retain the current November 1st opening date for the scallop season. It also proposed to change the dates for phasing in minimum sizes for scallop drags and the dates for limiting drag widths to reflect a November 1st opening date.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 281 phases in minimum ring sizes for scallop drags, with a minimum three-inch ring diameter required starting November 1, 1997, a minimum three and one-quarter inch ring diameter required starting November 1, 1999, and a minimum 3-1/2-inch ring diameter required starting November 1, 2001. It also requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt rules that limit the mesh size of net material on the top of a scallop drag, prohibit chafing gear or cookies on the top of a scallop drag, establish ring link restrictions for a scallop drag and prohibit drag or net obstructions. It also limits scallop drag width to five feet, six inches from November 1st to November 30th and 10 feet, six inches during the rest of the season. It also limits the width for all drags in Cobscook Bay and the Maine waters of Passamaquoddy Bay to five feet, six inches. It also provides that any drag used for harvesting scallops in Cobscook Bay and the Maine waters of Passamaquoddy Bay may not be greater than eight rings deep.

**LD 727                      An Act to Change the Membership of the Lobster Advisory Council                      PUBLIC 208**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ETNIER	OTP-AM    MAJ ONTP        MIN	H-274

LD 727 proposed to change the membership of the Lobster Advisory Council. Current law appoints members to the council based on county residence. The bill proposed to instead appoint as members the chairs of each of the lobster management policy council. The bill also proposed to permit the Lobster Advisory Council to engage in dispute resolution of issues affecting lobster management policy councils.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-274)** proposed to change the membership of the Lobster Advisory Council. It proposed to replace the eight county members of the council with members who are members of lobster management policy councils. It also proposed to add three members to the council who hold lobster and crab fishing licenses, but who are not members of a lobster management policy council.