

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

August 2015

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 127th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN HOUSES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagreed; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>action incomplete when session ended; legislation died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment</i>
<i>FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>failed to receive final majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote</i>
<i>HELD BY GOVERNOR</i>	<i>Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session</i>
<i>LEAVE TO WITHDRAW</i>	<i>sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>indefinitely postponed; legislation died</i>
<i>ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X</i>	<i>ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted private & special law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of enacted public law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>chapter # of finally passed resolve</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's veto</i>

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature is October 15, 2015. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

LD 491 An Act To Lower from 70 to 65 the Age at Which a Person May Obtain a Lobster and Crab Fishing License for a Reduced Fee ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GILLWAY THIBODEAU	ONTP	

This bill lowers the age at which a person may obtain a lobster and crab fishing license for a reduced fee from 70 to 65 years of age.

LD 492 An Act To Expand Eligibility for Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses for Veterans ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KUMIEGA MIRAMANT	ONTP	

This bill provides that a veteran who was honorably discharged, began military service prior to November 1, 2015, previously held a lobster or crab fishing license that was not revoked or suspended and reported lobster or crab landings to the Department of Marine Resources under that license is eligible to obtain a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license.

LD 493 An Act To Create the Ocean Acidification Council CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN JOHNSON		

This bill establishes the Ocean Acidification Council to identify, study, prevent, remediate and mitigate the direct and indirect effects of coastal and ocean acidification on species that are commercially harvested and grown in the State's coastal and ocean environments. It provides for 16 council members, including two members of the Senate, three members of the House of Representatives, two representatives of an environmental or community group, three persons who fish commercially, including at least one aquaculturist, three scientists and the Commissioner of Marine Resources, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or those commissioners' designees.

The powers and duties of the council include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Reviewing, analyzing and studying the existing scientific literature and data on coastal and ocean acidification and how it has directly or indirectly affected or may potentially affect commercially harvested and grown species along the coast of the State;
2. Identifying and monitoring the factors contributing to coastal and ocean acidification and identifying methods to mitigate acidification;
3. Working to implement the recommendations contained in the December 2014 report of the Commission To Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and Its Existing and Potential Effects on Species That Are Commercially Harvested and Grown Along the Maine Coast established by Resolve 2013, chapter 110;

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

- 4. Advising state agencies, the Legislature, Maine's congressional delegation, the Governor and federal entities on matters of coastal and ocean acidification;
- 5. Assisting the Legislature and the Governor with pending legislation related to coastal and ocean acidification including giving testimony at a public hearing on legislation before a joint standing committee of the Legislature;
- 6. Identifying and promoting economic development opportunities afforded by ocean acidification through development and commercialization of new technologies and businesses;
- 7. Recommending or submitting legislation to the Legislature relating to coastal and ocean acidification matters; and
- 8. Holding public hearings to receive testimony and recommendations from members of the public and qualified experts on matters related to coastal and ocean acidification.

This bill also requires the council to submit an annual report to the Legislature and authorizes the council to accept funding from outside sources and contains a provision repealing the laws establishing the council December 31, 2018.

This bill was carried over over to any special or regular session of the 127th Legislature by joint order H.P. 992.

LD 563 An Act Regarding the Purchase of Trap Tags in the Lobster Fishery ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KUMIEGA	ONTP	

This bill requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to establish by rule a minimum amount of lobster or crab landings required of a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license holder in order for the license holder to purchase the maximum number of trap tags available. If the license holder does not report the required amount of landings, the license holder is not eligible to purchase more than 300 trap tags in any subsequent license year.

This bill also provides that a holder of a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license who has not reported any lobster or crab landings to the Department of Marine Resources during the two years prior to January 1, 2015 may not purchase more than 300 trap tags in the license year beginning in 2016.

LD 669 An Act To Create a Spat Collection License PUBLIC 199

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DEVIN LANGLEY	OTP-AM	H-218

This bill creates a new license type that authorizes the collection of spat, which are larval marine organisms.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-218)

This amendment specifies that "spat" means sea scallops or blue mussels in the post-larval stage that have gone through metamorphosis and settled on a substrate and provides that the Commissioner of Marine Resources may add additional species to this definition by rule.