

**STATE OF MAINE**  
132ND LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
MARINE RESOURCES**

May 2026

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
MARINE RESOURCES**

**LD 1353 An Act Regarding Required Landings in the Menhaden Fishery**

Public Law 2025, chapter 761 requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt rules by December 31, 2027 to establish a limited entry commercial menhaden fishing license system that, once the number of licenses falls below 350 licenses and as long as the fishery exit ratio is one to one, provides preference to individuals who meet the established eligibility standards and who, based on municipality of residence, reside the farthest east in Maine. If more than one eligible individual resides in the same municipality, the commissioner is required to determine randomly which individual is given first preference. The commissioner is required to assign licenses under the preference system as soon as practicable following the effective date of the law. Until the commissioner establishes the limited entry system, the eligibility standards must be used, except that the rules may not take effect until all individuals who meet the preference requirements have been offered the opportunity to obtain a license.

**LD 1991 An Act to Authorize an Educational Requirement for Seaweed Permit Holders**

Public Law 2025, chapter 569 authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to require an educational course for the issuance or renewal of a seaweed permit. If the educational course requirement applies only to certain species of seaweed, the commissioner may require an endorsement on the seaweed permit for those species, which must be made available at no charge.

Public Law 2025, chapter 569 also requires the Department of Marine Resources to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters no later than February 1, 2028 with findings and recommendations related to the implementation of the educational course being developed for the issuance or renewal of a seaweed permit. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

**LD 2002 An Act to Extend the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative to December 31, 2028**

Public Law 2025, chapter 612 changes the repeal date of the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative to December 31, 2028 and provides that members of the collaborative serve staggered terms. The law also directs the Department of Marine Resources to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters no later than January 1, 2028 with an update on the collaborative and the work accomplished by the collaborative in 2026 and 2027. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.