

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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LD 2013 An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Adopt Emergency Rules to Protect Certain Marine Mammals in Exceptional Circumstances

Public Law 2025, chapter 625 authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt emergency rules under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8054 to limit the taking of marine organisms by method or location to protect certain marine mammals when the commissioner determines that immediate action is necessary to mitigate circumstances posing an exceptionally high level of risk to those mammals. The law also requires the Department of Marine Resources to submit a report annually, on or before January 1st, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters regarding the use of emergency rulemaking and authorizes the committee to report out a bill based on the report to any regular or special session of the Legislature in the year the report is due.

LD 2024 An Act to Make Changes to Certain Licensing Laws Governing For-hire Charter Boat Operators, Lobster and Crab Fishing and Elver Dealers

Public Law 2025, chapter 570 makes the following changes to certain licensing laws related to marine resources.

1. It clarifies eligibility requirements for a for-hire charter boat operator's license.
2. It amends a provision of law governing lobster and crab trap limits by removing language that describes trap limits prior to March 1, 2000 and repealing a provision that establishes a specific civil penalty for violating trap limits.
3. It removes a prohibition on issuing an elver dealer's license or supplemental license to a person using the same business address as a person who has violated certain laws governing elver dealers for at least 5 years following the violation.

LD 2025 An Act to Create a Limited-purpose License for Aquaculture Nursery and Husbandry Activities and to Clarify the Aquaculture Lease Amendment Process

Public Law 2025, chapter 672 establishes a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities and a process for amending certain types of aquaculture leases to include new species, gear, equipment and structure.

Public Law 2025, chapter 672 also makes the following changes to clarify the aquaculture lease process.

1. It removes the requirement that the holder of a research and aquaculture lease submit an annual seeding and harvesting report for the past year and a seeding and harvesting plan for the coming year.

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2. It establishes a 30-day period after the expiration of a limited-purpose lease for commercial aquaculture research and development in which the holder of the lease may submit an application to extend the lease and submit a \$500 late fee for the lease to remain in effect until the Commissioner of Marine Resources makes a decision regarding the application.
3. It removes the development and management of water quality licensing and monitoring criteria and analysis and evaluation of monitoring data from the allowable expenditures from the Aquaculture Management Fund and allows funds to be used to improve agency management of existing sites, including conducting education and outreach about compliance and inspection.
4. It requires access to aquaculture lease sites, licenses and permits by the commissioner or the commissioner's agent for the purpose of the inspection or the collection of samples and establishes requirements for the collection of samples.
5. It clarifies that seeding and harvesting reports that were submitted to the Department of Marine Resources that were confidential at the time the report was submitted remain confidential until those reports are no longer retained by the department pursuant to any records retention schedule.
6. It makes the results of testing of a sample collected by the Department of Marine Resources confidential except in certain cases.
7. It prohibits the Department of Marine Resources from issuing limited-purpose licenses or authorizing lease amendments for aquaculture until rules are adopted.