MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE

132ND LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

May 2026

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LD 2054 An Act to Clarify the Laws Regarding Moose Hunting Permits for Hunting Outfitters

Public Law 2025, chapter 727 amends the process by which moose hunting lodge permits are allocated and directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to make changes to the moose hunting lodge permit public chance drawing system to allow applicants to indicate a preference on the permit application for moose hunting season and wildlife management district to reduce the need for permit swaps.

LD 2055 An Act to Amend or Correct Certain Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws

Public Law 2025, chapter 563 makes the following changes to certain inland fisheries and wildlife laws.

1. It clarifies that a veteran transferee of a moose permit is subject to the 3-year ineligibility period to obtain another permit.

2. It reorganizes the statutes governing the use of lead jigs and lead sinkers and prohibits the use of certain lead jigs beginning September 1, 2026.

3. It replaces the term "fish eggs" and "fish spawn" with "gametes" in certain provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12 to clarify that the provisions apply to fish eggs and fish milt.

LD 2215 An Act Relating to Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures

Public Law 2025, chapter 566 makes the following changes to the laws governing nonwater-dependent floating structures.

1. It replaces the term "internal waters" with the term "waters of this State," which is defined as all internal waters and all federal waters within the jurisdiction of the State.

2. It replaces the term "coastal waters" with the term "territorial waters."

3. It provides that, for the owner of a homemade watercraft that is a houseboat or that is a nonwater-dependent floating structure capable of being used as a means of transportation on water to obtain a certificate of number from the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the homemade watercraft must meet all applicable operating visibility standards related to the field of vision from the helm position as recommended by the American Boat and Yacht Council or its successor organization.