

# STATE OF MAINE

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**In Senate** \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDERED**, the House concurring, that the Legislative Council shall take legal action on behalf of the Legislature to prohibit or limit the restrictions imposed on the northeast commercial lobster and Jonah crab trap/pot fisheries by the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to the biological opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act, referred to in this order as "the 2021 opinion," or the final rule announced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on August 31, 2021 and published in the Federal Register on September 17, 2021 with an effective date of October 18, 2021, referred to in this order as "the final rule." The Legislative Council, on behalf of the Legislature, shall take such legal action as it determines appropriate and fiscally feasible, including, but not limited to, joining any pending legal action regarding the 2021 opinion or the final rule as an intervenor in opposition to the measures imposed pursuant to the 2021 opinion or the final rule, providing an amicus brief in any pending legal action or initiating new litigation, and may limit the scope of its opposition to a portion or portions of the 2021 opinion or final rule, including, without limitation, those imposing increased conservation measures, seasonal closures on lobstering zones, limitations on the number or type of buoy lines and restrictions on other lobster fishing gear.

**SPONSORED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(President JACKSON, T.)**

**COUNTY: Aroostook**