



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

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Legislative Document

No. 669

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H.P. 450

House of Representatives, March 3, 2015

### An Act To Create a Spat Collection License

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Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 204.  
Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative DEVIN of Newcastle.  
Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and  
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, McCREIGHT of Harpswell,  
TUELL of East Machias, Senator: MIRAMANT of Knox.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6074-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§6074-A. Spat collection license**

4 **1. Definition.** As used in this section, "spat" means a marine organism in the larval  
5 stage.

6 **2. License required.** A person may not engage in the activities authorized under  
7 this section without a current spat collection license issued by the commissioner.

8 **3. Licensed activity.** The holder of a spat collection license may take, possess or  
9 sell the spat of marine organisms identified on the spat collection license.

10 **4. Type and amount of gear.** The commissioner shall specify on a spat collection  
11 license the method of taking and the type and amount of gear authorized by the license.

12 **5. Eligibility.** A spat collection license may be issued only to an individual who is a  
13 resident of the State.

14 **6. Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt rules that define the species of spat that may  
15 be collected and the maximum size of spat for each marine organism that a holder of a  
16 spat collection license is authorized to take. The commissioner may adopt rules to limit  
17 the amount of spat collected and the type and amount of gear that may be used for spat  
18 collection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as  
19 defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

20 **7. License holder exempted.** The holder of a spat collection license is exempted  
21 from the requirement to hold a license under this Part for harvesting the species identified  
22 on the spat collection license. The holder of a spat collection license is exempted from  
23 the time restrictions on taking or possessing or minimum size requirements for that  
24 species.

25 **8. Fees.** The fee for a spat collection license is \$143. All fees collected under this  
26 section accrue to the Aquaculture Management Fund established in section 6072-D.

27 **9. Reporting.** The commissioner may require the holder of a spat collection license  
28 to report annually on the quantity of spat collected and whether the spat was used for  
29 aquaculture or stock enhancement activities.

30 **10. Violation.** A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for  
31 which a fine of not less than \$100 and not more than \$500 may be adjudged.

32 **SUMMARY**

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