

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-ONE

—
H.P. 236 - L.D. 332

An Act To Reevaluate the Frenchboro Area Dragging Exclusion Zone

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6954-A, sub-§1, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 452, Pt. F, §37 and affected by Pt. X, §2, is amended by amending the first blocked paragraph to read:

For purposes of this section, except as otherwise defined by rules adopted under subsection 1-A, "the Frenchboro area" means the following area: starting at the easternmost point on Red Point, Swan's Island; thence in an easterly direction to the southernmost point of the western Sister's Island; thence in a southeasterly direction to the southernmost point of Crow Island; thence in a southerly direction to the northernmost point of Harbor Island, Frenchboro, Long Island; thence southerly to the state ferry terminal located on the eastern side of Lunt's Harbor, Frenchboro, Long Island, and then starting at the westernmost point of Gooseberry Point on Frenchboro, Long Island; westerly to the northeast point of John's Island; thence northwest to the easternmost point of the largest of the Baker Islands; thence northwesterly to the northeastern point of Harbor Island, Swan's Island; thence northerly to Quarry Wharf, Minturn, Swan's Island.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6954-A, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 784, §10, is amended to read:

1-A. Scalping permitted by rule. The commissioner may adopt and amend rules that amend the definition of the Frenchboro area if the commissioner determines, after evaluation, that the area should be modified to better achieve the purposes of this section. The commissioner may also adopt and amend rules permitting the taking of scallops in the Frenchboro area, ~~as defined in subsection 1~~, except that the rules may not permit the use of drags more than 30 inches wide and may not permit the use of drag ropes more than 3/8 inch in diameter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 3. Evaluation of the Frenchboro area; report. Within 90 days of the effective date of this Act, the Commissioner of Marine Resources shall evaluate the size and boundaries of the Frenchboro area, where, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6954-A, dragging and scalping are prohibited, to determine whether the

area should be modified. The commissioner shall report the results of the evaluation to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by February 1, 2022.