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Date: (Filing No. H-)

MARINE RESOURCES

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 1321, L.D. 1770, “An Act To Create a Commercial Halibut Fishing License”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 5 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §6506 is enacted to read:

§6506. Commercial halibut fishing license

1. License required. Beginning January 1, 2023, a person may not engage in the activities authorized under this section without a current:

- A. Commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator;
- B. Commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator and all crew members;
- C. Commercial halibut fishing license for a nonresident operator and all crew members;
or
- D. Commercial halibut fishing license for an operator with a federal northeast multispecies groundfish permit authorizing halibut fishing for the operator and all crew members.

2. Licensed activity; commercial license. The holder of a commercial halibut fishing license issued under subsection 1 may fish for, take, possess, ship, transport or sell halibut that the holder has taken. Crew members aboard a license holder’s vessel may fish for, take, possess, ship or transport halibut only if the license provides for crew members.

3. Eligibility. A commercial halibut fishing license issued under subsection 1 may be issued only to an individual.

4. Fees. Fees for commercial halibut fishing licenses issued under subsection 1 are as follows:

- A. For a commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator, \$48;
- B. For a commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator and all crew members, \$128;

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1 C. For a commercial halibut fishing license for a nonresident operator and all crew
2 members, \$481; and

3 D. For a commercial halibut fishing license for an operator with a federal northeast
4 multispecies groundfish permit authorizing halibut fishing for the operator and all crew
5 members, \$2.

6 The commissioner shall deposit fees collected pursuant to this subsection in the Halibut
7 Fund established under section 6039.

8 **5. Halibut tags.** The holder of a commercial halibut fishing license issued under
9 subsection 1 must annually purchase halibut tags to fish for or take halibut. A license holder
10 may purchase an allotment of halibut tags only once per year. A vessel may have only one
11 license holder’s tags assigned to that vessel. The commissioner shall establish by rule the
12 maximum number of halibut tags that may be issued to a license holder per year, and may
13 establish up to 2 options for the number of tags a license holder may purchase. The
14 commissioner may establish a fee, not to exceed \$4 per tag, for each purchase option.
15 Unless otherwise specified in routine technical rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant
16 to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, the following fees apply to halibut tags:

17 A. For 10 halibut tags, \$10; and

18 B. For 25 halibut tags, \$100.

19 The commissioner shall deposit fees collected pursuant to this subsection in the Halibut
20 Fund established under section 6039.'

21 Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

22 **'Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
23 allocations are made.

24 **MARINE RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF**

25 **Bureau of Marine Science 0027**

26 Initiative: Provides allocations for expenditures related to halibut research and for the
27 implementation of management measures needed for the halibut fishery.

28	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2021-22	2022-23
29	All Other	\$0	\$48,500
30			
31	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$48,500

32 '
33 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section
34 number to read consecutively.

35 **SUMMARY**

36 This amendment adds a commercial halibut fishing license requirement for an operator
37 with a federal northeast multispecies groundfish permit authorizing halibut fishing for the
38 operator and all crew members and sets the license fee at \$2 for such an operator. It permits
39 the Commissioner of Marine Resources to establish up to 2 options for the number of
40 halibut tags a license holder may purchase and to establish fees for the tag purchase options

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1 provided they do not exceed \$4 per tag. The amendment replaces the 5 tag options in the
2 bill with 2 tag options: 10 halibut tags for \$10 and 25 halibut tags for \$100. The amendment
3 also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

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FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
(See attached)