

STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

August 2025

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Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

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Not Enacted	LD 336	An Act to Change the Waiting List System for Commercial Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses	ONTP
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Not Enacted	LD 1561	Resolve, Regarding the Percentage of a Lobster and Crab Fishing Licensee's Lobster Traps That May Be Fished in a Lobster Management Zone Listed on the License as a Secondary Zone	RESOLVE 65
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	LD 619	An Act Related to Marine Resources and Maine's Working Waterfront	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310
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Scallops

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	LD 1279	Resolve, Establishing the Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program	RESOLVE 115
	LD 1341	Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Evaluate How to Effectively Allow 2 Licensed Individuals to Fish for Lobsters or Scallops from a Single Vessel	RESOLVE 49
Not Enacted	LD 1352	An Act to Amend Provisions Regarding the Scallop Fishery License Apprentice Program, Licensing and Limited Access Areas	ONTP
	LD 1679	An Act to Allocate Scallop Dragging Licenses for Island Communities	ONTP

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Enacted	LD 64	An Act to Eliminate the Cultchless American Oyster Growers License	PUBLIC 227
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Shellfish Research

Enacted	LD 1279	Resolve, Establishing the Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program	RESOLVE 115
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Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

Comm	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Date of Last Committee Action	Carried Over?	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst note?	Session
MAR	44	An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Elver Fishing	Hepler, Allison	OTP-AM	5/29/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	225		S1
MAR	64	An Act to Eliminate the Cultchless American Oyster Growers License	Strout, Tiffany	OTP-AM	5/29/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	227		S1
MAR	144	An Act to Create a Limited Retail Seafood Harvester Certificate	Reny, Cameron	OTP-AM	5/5/2025		Emergency Enacted	ACTPUB	82		S1
MAR	214	An Act to Create a For-hire Charter Boat Operator License and to Require Individuals Recreationally Fishing for Halibut in Coastal Waters to Register with the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry	Hepler, Allison	OTP-AM/OTP-AM	5/20/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	155		S1
MAR	325	An Act Related to the Disbursement of Revenue Generated from the Harvesting of River Herring	Bridgeo, William	ONTP	3/17/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
MAR	336	An Act to Change the Waiting List System for Commercial Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses	Bagshaw, Barbara	ONTP	3/18/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				R1
MAR	475	An Act to Protect Maine's Marine Resources	Tepler, Denise		5/19/2025	Carried Over					S1
MAR	489	An Act to Provide for a Vessel Breakdown License Exception for Commercial Halibut Fishing License Holders	Strout, Tiffany	OTP-AM	4/25/2025		Emergency Enacted	ACTPUB	60		S1
MAR	553	An Act to Assert State Sovereignty over Ocean Waters and Marine Resources up to 12 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast	Martin, Joseph	ONTP/OTP-AM	5/30/2025		Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
MAR	619	An Act Related to Marine Resources and Maine's Working Waterfront	Hepler, Allison	LTW	5/14/2025		Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Date of Last Committee Action	Carried Over?	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst note?	Session
MAR	687	An Act to Assert State Ownership over Ocean Waters up to 12 Nautical Miles and Submerged Lands and Marine Resources up to 24 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast and to Direct the Attorney General to Study That Ownership	Martin, Joseph	AWD	3/7/2025		Automatic Withdrawal Pursuant to Joint Rule 305.6				R1
MAR	816	An Act Regarding the Emptying of Elver Fyke Nets	Strout, Tiffany	OTP	3/28/2025		Emergency Enacted	ACTPUB	28		S1
MAR	851	An Act to Establish a Senior Retiree Lobster License	Foley, Robert	ONTP/OTP	5/29/2025		Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
MAR	968	Resolve, to Study Stakeholder Input Involving the Appointment of the Commissioner of Marine Resources	Golek, Cheryl	ONTP/OTP-AM	6/3/2025		Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1
MAR	1026	An Act to Provide Mapping Services for Aquaculture Lease Siting	Reny, Cameron		5/19/2025	Carried Over					S1
MAR	1094	An Act to Prohibit a Person from Obtaining an Elver Dealer's License for a Minimum of 5 Years in Cases of Repeat Violations of License Conditions	Simmons, Abden	OTP-AM	6/3/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	370		S1
MAR	1172	An Act to Enact the Passamaquoddy Fisheries and Workforce Development Act	Dana, Aaron	AWD	5/19/2025		Automatic Withdrawal Pursuant to Joint Rule 305.6				S1
MAR	1176	An Act to Provide for the Sustainable Management of Marine Resources and Create a Noncommercial Northern Shrimp License	Eaton, Holly	OTP	5/29/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	244		S1
MAR	1253	An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Add Limited-access Area Fishing Days During the Scallop Season	Faulkingham, Billy Bob	OTP-AM	5/20/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	160		S1
MAR	1279	Resolve, Establishing the Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program	Eaton, Holly	OTP-AM	5/29/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	115		S1
MAR	1319	An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Suspension of Licenses Issued by the Department of Marine Resources for Failure to Comply with Reporting Requirements	Reny, Cameron	OTP-AM	5/30/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	246		S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Date of Last Committee Action	Carried Over?	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst note?	Session
MAR	1341	Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Evaluate How to Effectively Allow 2 Licensed Individuals to Fish for Lobsters or Scallops from a Single Vessel	Grohoski, Nicole	OTP-AM	5/20/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	49		S1
MAR	1352	An Act to Amend Provisions Regarding the Scallop Fishery License Apprentice Program, Licensing and Limited Access Areas	Faulkingham, Billy Bob	ONTP	4/29/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
MAR	1353	An Act Regarding Required Landings in the Menhaden Fishery	Faulkingham, Billy Bob		5/19/2025	Carried Over					S1
MAR	1503	An Act to Create a Green Crab Only Wholesale Dealer License	Golek, Cheryl	OTP-AM	5/20/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	169		S1
MAR	1561	Resolve, Regarding the Percentage of a Lobster and Crab Fishing Licensee's Lobster Traps That May Be Fished in a Lobster Management Zone Listed on the License as a Secondary Zone	Hepler, Allison	OTP	5/29/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	65		S1
MAR	1595	An Act to Strengthen Working Waterfronts Against Nuisance Complaints Regarding Aquaculture	Rielly, Morgan	OTP	5/29/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	249		S1
MAR	1596	Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Submit a Report on the Findings and Recommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Council	Rielly, Morgan	OTP-AM/ONTP	6/3/2025		Finally Passed	RESLV	102		S1
MAR	1625	An Act Regarding the Preservation of Working Waterfronts	Mathieson, Kristi	ONTP	5/8/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
MAR	1678	An Act to Allocate Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses for Island Communities	Eaton, Holly	ONTP	5/14/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1
MAR	1679	An Act to Allocate Scallop Dragging Licenses for Island Communities	Eaton, Holly	ONTP	5/14/2025		Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310				S1

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Comm	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Date of Last Committee Action	Carried Over?	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst note?	Session
MAR	1708	An Act to Create the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund to Further Develop Training and Provide Equipment to Recover Ships and Other Watercraft and Persons in Distress or Lost at Sea	Strout, Tiffany	OTP-AM	5/29/2025		Enacted	ACTPUB	251		S1
MAR	1722	An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Regulation of Aquaculture Leases	Rielly, Morgan	OTP-AM	6/17/2025		Emergency Enacted	ACTPUB	389		S1
MAR	1790	An Act Regarding Lobster Measurement	Faulkingham, Billy Bob	ONTP/OTP	5/29/2025		Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report				S1

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

LD 44 An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Elver Fishing

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 225 allows the Commissioner of Marine Resources to require certain applicants for an elver fishing license to complete an educational course and gives the commissioner the authority to withhold up to 1% of the available overall annual elver quota for the State before allocating any portion of the overall annual quota.

LD 64 An Act to Eliminate the Cultchless American Oyster Growers License

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 227 repeals the cultchless American oyster growers license and specifies that a person may not take, possess or sell cultchless American oysters when more than 20% of a bulk pile is composed of cultchless American oysters, subject to a limited number of exceptions to the 20% tolerance.

LD 144 An Act to Create a Limited Retail Seafood Harvester Certificate

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 82 creates a limited retail seafood harvester certificate, which may be attached to a retail seafood license. This certificate allows the holder to sell shellstock the holder has taken from only one vehicle identified on the holder's license. The certificate is available for a fee of \$50, which must be deposited in the Shellfish Fund.

Public Law 2025, chapter 82 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 23, 2025.

LD 214 An Act to Create a For-hire Charter Boat Operator License and to Require Individuals Recreationally Fishing for Halibut in Coastal Waters to Register with the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 155 creates a new requirement for individuals who take paying customers recreationally fishing for fish in the coastal waters of the State to obtain a for-hire charter boat operator's license. The license is available only to an individual holding a current guide license for tidewater fishing or who is a captain of a vessel holding a valid and current certificate of inspection issued by the United States Coast Guard. It also eliminates exceptions from having to register with the saltwater registry for individuals fishing recreationally for halibut.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

LD 489 An Act to Provide for a Vessel Breakdown License Exception for Commercial Halibut Fishing License Holders

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 60 provides that the holder of a commercial halibut fishing license may fish for, take, possess, ship, transport or sell halibut that the holder has taken using only the vessel named on the license and adds an exception to this provision. Public Law 2025, chapter 60 also allows a commercial halibut fishing license holder to request authorization from the Commissioner of Marine Resources to use a vessel other than the vessel identified on that license holder's license when that license holder's vessel is temporarily inoperable. This special authorization may not be granted to the license holder in two consecutive years.

Public Law 2025, chapter 60 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 9, 2025.

LD 816 An Act Regarding the Emptying of Elver Fyke Nets

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 28 amends the law governing elver fishing to permit a license holder to whom a tag is issued to allow an individual who also holds an elver fishing license to empty the elver fyke net of the license holder whose tag is on the net while under that license holder's direct supervision.

Public Law 2025, chapter 28 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 18, 2025.

LD 1094 An Act to Prohibit a Person from Obtaining an Elver Dealer's License for a Minimum of 5 Years in Cases of Repeat Violations of License Conditions

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 370 amends the laws governing the licensing of elver dealers to provide that an elver dealer's license may not be issued to any person using the same business address as a person who has violated the conditions of the person's license for five years following the violation. Public Law 2025, chapter 370 also provides that it is unlawful for a person whose license or right to obtain a license is under suspension to hold a direct and substantial financial interest in any business that buys, possesses, transports or sells elvers if that person has had that person's elver dealer's license or right to obtain an elver dealer's license suspended or revoked.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

LD 1176 An Act to Provide for the Sustainable Management of Marine Resources and Create a Noncommercial Northern Shrimp License

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 244 amends the sustainable development of emerging fisheries law to allow the Commissioner of Marine Resources to require an endorsement on a fishing license for an emerging fishery for a species whose harvest is currently authorized under the commercial pelagic and anadromous fishing license. It also removes a license exemption for the taking of northern shrimp for personal use and creates a resident noncommercial northern shrimp license at a cost of \$20, which is deposited in the Shrimp Management Fund.

LD 1253 An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Add Limited-access Area Fishing Days During the Scallop Season

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 160 allows the Commissioner of Marine Resources to extend the scallop fishing season by up to a total of five limited-access area days during the scallop season through emergency rulemaking if the commissioner determines that additional days are necessary to counteract the inability to fish for scallops on certain days due to inclement weather as long as the scallop population is sufficient to allow additional scallop fishing in those areas.

LD 1279 Resolve, Establishing the Biotxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 115 establishes the Biotxin Testing of Cultured Scallops Pilot Program and directs the Department of Marine Resources to oversee the program. Resolve 2025, chapter 115 specifies that the program operates for a two-year period with the aim of conducting biotoxin testing of whole cultured scallops or the roe of cultured scallops in the same manner as the testing for other cultured mollusks under the Marine Shellfish Toxins Monitoring Program. Resolve 2025, chapter 115 requires the department to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters on each year of the program, by January 1, 2027 and January 1, 2028, detailing the number of commercial fisheries businesses using the testing offered by the pilot program, the overall impact on the scallop aquaculture industry, including economic growth and cultured scallop landings, and recommendations for further improvements or expansions of the testing. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the 2028 report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

LD 1319 An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Suspension of Licenses Issued by the Department of Marine Resources for Failure to Comply with Reporting Requirements

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 246 makes changes to the process for license or certificate suspension for failing to comply with daily reporting requirements by harvesters of marine organisms. Specifically, Public Law 2025, chapter 246 changes the period of time a license or certificate holder has to comply with the reporting requirements before notice of suspension is mailed from 24 hours to two days; removes language that authorized the Commissioner of Marine Resources to serve the notice of suspension in hand; clarifies that the notice of suspension must state that a license or certificate will be suspended three business days after the license or certificate holder's receipt of the notice; and changes from one calendar day to three business days the period of time a license or certificate holder has upon receipt of the notice of suspension to comply with the reporting requirements or to request a hearing before the license or certificate is suspended.

LD 1341 Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Evaluate How to Effectively Allow 2 Licensed Individuals to Fish for Lobsters or Scallops from a Single Vessel

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 49 directs the Department of Marine Resources to evaluate how two licensed individuals may fish for or take lobsters or scallops from a single vessel concurrently without this resulting in an increased harvest and to report back on their review to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by March 1, 2026.

LD 1503 An Act to Create a Green Crab Only Wholesale Dealer License

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 169 establishes a green crab only wholesale dealer license that allows a license holder to, in wholesale trade, buy, sell, process, ship or transport green crabs purchased directly from harvesters in this State. The license fee for a green crab only wholesale dealer license is \$50, which must be deposited in the Green Crab Management Fund. A wholesale dealer license expires on March 31st of each year and a license authorizes activities at only one establishment or with only one vehicle.

Public Law 2025, chapter 169 provides that a person who engages in these activities without a valid green crab only wholesale dealer license is subject to a penalty established by the Department of Marine Resources and authorizes the department to suspend or revoke a license following a violation.

Public Law 2025, chapter 169 includes a sunset provision, which repeals the law January 1, 2031. Public Law 2025, chapter 169 directs the department to conduct a review of the effectiveness of

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the green crab only wholesale dealer license prior to the repeal date. The department is required to submit to the 134th Legislature in 2030 a report of the review, including any recommendations to continue or modify the license.

LD 1561 Resolve, Regarding the Percentage of a Lobster and Crab Fishing Licensee's Lobster Traps That May Be Fished in a Lobster Management Zone Listed on the License as a Secondary Zone

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 65 directs the Department of Marine Resources to seek input from the lobster management policy councils regarding what percentage of a lobster and crab fishing licensee's lobster traps a licensee may fish in a lobster management zone that is listed on the licensee's license as a zone in which the licensee intends to fish some lobster traps, but is not designated as the zone in which the licensee intends to fish the majority of the licensee's lobster traps, also known as a secondary zone. The department must use the input received from the councils to develop recommendations regarding the percentage of traps that may be fished in a secondary zone. The department must submit a report, including its recommendations, to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources no later than December 3, 2025. The law authorizes the committee to submit legislation related to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

LD 1595 An Act to Strengthen Working Waterfronts Against Nuisance Complaints Regarding Aquaculture

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 249 amends the law that prohibits private nuisance actions against a person engaged in a commercial fishing activity or commercial fishing operation to include activities associated with aquaculture and commercial fisheries businesses, which include enterprises concerned with the commercial harvest of wild or aquacultured marine organisms.

LD 1596 Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Submit a Report on the Findings and Recommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Council

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2025, chapter 102 directs the Department of Marine Resources to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources no later than January 1, 2026 with findings and recommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Council and the council's subcommittees. The focus of the report must be the council's findings and recommendations related to deliberations concerning changes to the aquaculture leasing process. The law authorizes the committee to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

LD 1708 An Act to Create the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund to Further Develop Training and Provide Equipment to Recover Ships and Other Watercraft and Persons in Distress or Lost at Sea

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 251 establishes the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund within the Department of Marine Resources to support activities related to improving safety in the commercial fishing industry and improving the department's ability to conduct search and rescue and recovery operations, including the acquisition of necessary equipment.

LD 1722 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Regulation of Aquaculture Leases

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2025, chapter 389 amends provisions of law governing aquaculture leases. Public Law 2025, chapter 389 makes changes to the lease renewal process to clarify that a lease renewal is not an adjudicatory proceeding and that, if a renewal application is received late, but no more than 30 days after the expiration date, the application may still be considered if the applicant pays a nonrefundable late fee of \$500 or if the Commissioner of Marine Resources waives the late fee because the applicant provides evidence of a substantial illness or medical condition that prevented the applicant from submitting the application on time. Public Law 2025, chapter 389 also changes from 30 days to 120 days the number of days it takes for a lease to expire after the Commissioner of Marine Resources makes a decision about a lease renewal; increases the number of people who must be notified of a completed renewal application to include the owners of riparian land within 1,000 feet of the proposed lease and the municipal officers of the municipality in which the lease is located; and makes changes to the scientific lease renewal process.

Public Law 2025, chapter 389 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 20, 2025.