



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2021

Legislative Document

No. 332

H.P. 236

House of Representatives, February 8, 2021

**An Act To Reevaluate the Frenchboro Area Dragging Exclusion
Zone**

Received by the Clerk of the House on February 4, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative McDONALD of Stonington.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6954-A, sub-§1**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2003, c. 452,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

5 For purposes of this section, except as otherwise defined by rules adopted under subsection
6 1-A, "the Frenchboro area" means the following area: starting at the easternmost point on
7 Red Point, Swan's Island; thence in an easterly direction to the southernmost point of the
8 western Sister's Island; thence in a southeasterly direction to the southernmost point of
9 Crow Island; thence in a southerly direction to the northernmost point of Harbor Island,
10 Frenchboro, Long Island; thence southerly to the state ferry terminal located on the eastern
11 side of Lunt's Harbor, Frenchboro, Long Island, and then starting at the westernmost point
12 of Gooseberry Point on Frenchboro, Long Island; westerly to the northeast point of John's
13 Island; thence northwest to the easternmost point of the largest of the Baker Islands; thence
14 northwesterly to the northeastern point of Harbor Island, Swan's Island; thence northerly to
15 Quarry Wharf, Minturn, Swan's Island.

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

18 **1-A. Scalloping permitted by rule.** The commissioner may adopt and amend rules
19 that amend the definition of the Frenchboro area if the commissioner determines, after
20 evaluation, that the area should be modified to better achieve the purposes of this section.
21 The commissioner may also adopt and amend rules permitting the taking of scallops in the
22 Frenchboro area, ~~as defined in subsection 1~~, except that the rules may not permit the use of
23 drags more than 30 inches wide and may not permit the use of drag ropes more than 3/8
24 inch in diameter. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as
25 defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

26 **Sec. 3. Evaluation of the Frenchboro area.** Within 90 days of the effective date
27 of this Act, the Commissioner of Marine Resources shall evaluate the size and boundaries
28 of the Frenchboro area, where, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section
29 6954-A, dragging and scalloping are prohibited, to determine whether the area should be
30 modified.

31 **SUMMARY**

32 This bill directs the Commissioner of Marine Resources to evaluate the size and
33 boundaries of the Frenchboro area, where dragging and scalloping are prohibited, to
34 determine whether the area should be modified. This bill also allows the commissioner to
35 modify by rule that Frenchboro area.