



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

Legislative Document

No. 1678

H.P. 1113

House of Representatives, April 17, 2025

An Act to Allocate Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses for Island Communities

Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.


ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and
Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, CROCKETT of Portland, RAY of Lincolnville,
RIELLY of Westbrook.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6502-C, sub-§2-C is enacted to read:

2-C. Commercial license; island communities. Notwithstanding subsection 1-B, the commissioner shall allocate one commercial menhaden fishing license for each of the following island communities to be issued to an applicant who is a resident of each community:

A. Chebeague Island;

B. Cliff Island;

C. Frenchboro;

D. Great Cranberry Island;

E. Isle au Haut;

F. Islesboro;

G. Islesford;

H. Long Island in Casco Bay;

I. Matinicus Isle;

J. Monhegan;

K. North Haven;

L. Peaks Island;

M. Swan's Island; and

N. Vinalhaven.

A license issued pursuant to this subsection may not be transferred to a resident of an island community other than the community to which the commissioner allocated the license. If a license that is allocated for an island community goes unissued for 3 consecutive years, the commissioner may reallocate that license to another community listed under this subsection.

The commissioner shall work with the municipal officers of the island communities listed under this subsection and with relevant local organizations within those communities to implement and administer this subsection, including verifying applicant residency, facilitating the allocation of licenses and identifying the need for additional licenses to be issued as incentives to attract year-round residents.

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Commissioner of Marine Resources to allocate one commercial menhaden fishing license each for certain island communities to be issued to an applicant who is a resident of each community. The bill prohibits a license issued to a resident of an island community from being transferred to a resident of a community other than the community to which the commissioner allocated the license. The bill also allows the commissioner to reallocate a license that goes unissued for 3 consecutive years to another island community and directs the commissioner to work with the municipal officers of the

1 island communities and relevant organizations within the communities to implement and
2 administer the provisions of the bill.