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Date: (Filing No. S-)

MARINE RESOURCES

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 164, L.D. 435, Bill, “An Act To Extend the Protection of Municipal Shellfish Conservation Programs”

Amend the bill in the 6th indented paragraph after the title in the last line (page 1, line 16 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "expire" and inserting the following: 'expired'

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the emergency clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6671, sub-§10-D is enacted to read:

10-D. Prohibition. A person may not fish for or take any marine organism from within a predator control project area that has been approved by the commissioner as part of a municipal predator control project, except that the municipality may remove green crabs from within the predator control project area. A person who violates this subsection commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$300 and not more than \$1,000 may be adjudged.

This subsection is repealed November 1, 2016.

Sec. 2. Extension of municipal predator control pilot project.

1. Extension of pilot projects authorized. The Commissioner of Marine Resources, referred to in this section as "the commissioner," may authorize the extension of municipal predator control pilot projects created pursuant to Public Law 2013, chapter 517 for the purpose of determining the effectiveness of predator control in increasing the survival rate of soft shell clams for a period not to extend beyond November 1, 2016. A municipality shall submit its request for an extension of the municipality's predator control pilot project on forms provided by the Department of Marine Resources. The area encompassed by a municipality's request for extension of a predator control pilot project may not include any area that was not previously approved by the commissioner for that municipality's predator control pilot project in 2014.

1 The amendment also provides that the Commissioner of Marine Resources may authorize
2 an extension of predator control pilot projects begun by the towns of Freeport,
3 Brunswick, Harpswell and West Bath in 2014, although the projects may continue only
4 until November 1, 2016. The amendment requires towns with an extended predator
5 control pilot project to report the results of the project to the Department of Marine
6 Resources by January 31, 2017.

7 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

8 **(See attached)**