# STATE OF MAINE

123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature First Regular Session



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature coming from the

# JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

July 2007

#### **MEMBERS:**

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# JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES

#### **Summary of Committee Actions**

ı.	BILLS AND PAPERS CONSIDERED	<u>Number</u>	% of Comm Activity	% of All Bills/Papers
	A. Bills referred to Committee			
	Bills referred and voted out	33	91.7%	1.7%
	Bills Carried Over	<u>3</u>	8.3%	0.2%
	Total Bills referred	36	100.0%	1.9%
	B. Bills reported out by law or joint order	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Total Bills considered by Committee	36	100.0%	1.9%
	Orders and Resolutions referred to Committee			
	Joint Study Orders referred and voted out	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Joint Resolutions referred and voted out	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Orders and Resolutions Carried Over	<u>0</u>	0.0%	0.0%
	Total Orders and Resolutions Referred	0	0.0%	0.0%
			% of this	% of All
			Committee's	Committee
II.	COMMITTEE REPORTS	Number	<u>Reports</u>	Reports
	A. Unanimous committee reports			
	Ought to Pass	4	12.1%	0.2%
	Ought to Pass as Amended	13	39.4%	0.7%
	Ought to Pass as New Draft	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Ought Not to Pass	<u>6</u> <b>23</b>	<u>18.2%</u> <b>69.7%</b>	<u>0.3%</u> <b>1.3%</b>
	Total unanimous reports	23	69.7%	1.3%
	B. Divided committee reports			
	Two-way reports	7	21.2%	0.4%
	Three-way reports	3	9.1%	0.2%
	Four-way reports	<u>0</u>	0.0%	0.0%
	Total divided reports	10	30.3%	0.6%
	Total committee reports	33	91.7%	1.9%
III.	CONFIRMATION HEARINGS	4	N/A	N/A
IV.	FINAL DISPOSITION	Number	% of Comm Bills/Papers	% of All Bills/Papers
	A. Bills and Papers enacted or finally passed			
	Joint Study Orders	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Public laws	13	36.1%	0.7%
	Private and Special Laws	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Resolves	3	8.3%	0.2%
	Constitutional Resolutions	<u>0</u>	0.0%	0.0%
	Total Enacted or Finally Passed	16	44.4%	0.8%
	B. Resolves to authorize major substantive rules			
	Rules authorized without legislative changes	1	100.0%	4.2%
	Rules authorized with legislative changes	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Rules not authorized by the Legislature	0	0.0%	<u>0.0%</u>
	Total number of rules reviewed	1	100.0%	4.2%
	C. Bills vetoed or held by Governor			
	Vetoes over-ridden	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Vetoes sustained	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Held by the Governor	0	0.0%	0.0%
	Total	0	0.0%	0.0%

Note: A committee vote on a bill is not included here if the bill was subsequently re-referred to another committee or recommitted and carried over.

#### LD 16 An Act To Make Lobster Trap Molesting a Civil Offense

**PUBLIC 283** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MAZUREK	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-74

LD 16 decriminalizes the offense of molesting a lobster trap and makes it a civil offense.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-74)

This committee amendment makes technical changes to the bill.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 283 decriminalizes the offense of molesting a lobster trap and makes it a civil offense for which a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 may be adjudged.

#### LD 77 An Act To Provide for the Safety of Elver Fishermen Using Dip Nets

ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PENDLETON	ONTP MAJ	
BARTLETT	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 77 allows a person to use a dip net to fish for elvers while standing in the coastal waters of the State during the 2 hours before high tide and the 2 hours following high tide.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-7)

This committee amendment is the minority report and replaces the bill. It proposes to remove the prohibition in current law against using a dip net to fish for elvers in the coastal waters.

#### LD 92 An Act To Modify the Boundaries of Maine's Lobster Fishing Zones

ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
TURNER	ONTP MAJ	
	OTP MAJ	

LD 92 restricts lobster management zones from extending beyond the 3-mile limit as set by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It also prohibits the Commissioner of Marine Resources from adopting rules that would allow the holder of a lobster and crab fishing license declared for any particular zone more traps beyond the 3-mile limit than any other holder of a lobster and crab fishing license.

### LD 139 An Act To Provide Flexibility for Sea Urchin Zones

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAMON	ONTP	

LD 139 provides the Commissioner of Marine Resources with the authority to adopt rules to create sea urchin management areas. It also authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules for management areas that are different from those in place in the surrounding sea urchin zones.

#### LD 140 An Act To List the Shortnose Sturgeon as a Marine Endangered Species

**PUBLIC 6** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAMON	OTP	

LD 140l adds shortnose sturgeon, which is listed as an endangered species by the United States Secretary of the Interior, to Maine's endangered species list. It authorizes the inclusion of shortnose sturgeon in the Department of Marine Resources' Section 6 Cooperative Agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which allows federally funded research of this endangered species in state waters.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 6 adds shortnose sturgeon, which is listed as an endangered species by the United States Secretary of the Interior, to Maine's endangered species list. This action authorizes the inclusion of shortnose sturgeon in the Department of Marine Resources' Section 6 Cooperative Agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which allows federally funded research of this endangered species in state waters.

### LD 156 An Act To Require All Holders of Mahogany Quahog Licenses To Operate Their Own Vessels When Fishing for Quahogs

**ONTP** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
EMERY	ONTP	

LD 156 is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

LD 156 proposes to amend the current law to require that holders of mahogany quahog licenses must also be present upon and operating their own vessels while those vessels are in the process of fishing for quahogs.

# LD 170 An Act To Permit the Landing of Lobsters Harvested by Methods other than Conventional Traps

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
HASKELL	ONTP	

LD 170 is an emergency measure and creates an offshore lobster and crab landing license that allows the holder to harvest lobsters other than by conventional lobster traps from the EEZ Offshore Lobster Management Area 3 and land those lobsters in the State. It sets the limit for the number of lobsters that can be harvested under this

license at 100 lobsters for a fishing trip of 24 hours or less in duration, with a maximum limit of 500 lobsters within a period of 7 consecutive days. LD 170 also provides for the allocation of revenues raised by the new license to the Lobster Fund and the Lobster Promotion Fund.

# LD 257 An Act To Allow Expense Reimbursement for the Commercial Fishing Safety Council

**PUBLIC 34** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MCDONOUGH	OTP-AM	H-32

LD 257 provides compensation to members of the Commercial Fishing Safety Council for the expenses they incur traveling to meetings.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-32)

This committee amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 34 provides compensation to members of the Commercial Fishing Safety Council for the expenses they incur traveling to meetings.

#### LD 311 An Act To Create a Nonresident Lobster and Crab Landing Permit

**PUBLIC 201** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
WHEELER	OTP-AM A OTP-AM B	H-257
	ONTP C	

LD 311 creates a new permit that allows nonresident lobster fishermen to land their catch in a Maine port.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-257)

This committee amendment is the majority report and provides that an applicant for a nonresident lobster and crab landing permit must document to the Commissioner of Marine Resources that that person has not been issued lobster trap tags from another state or from the federal government that would allow that person to exceed Maine's trap tag limit. It also provides that the holder of the permit may transport lobsters within the State. This committee amendment directs the Department of Marine Resources to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters on the implementation and impact of the nonresident lobster and crab landing permit on the lobster resource and related businesses by January 3, 2009.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 201 creates a new permit that allows nonresident lobster fishermen to land their catch in a Maine port. It provides that an applicant for a nonresident lobster and crab landing permit must document to the Commissioner of Marine Resources that that person has not been issued lobster trap tags from another state or from the federal government that would allow that person to exceed Maine's trap tag limit. Public Law 2007, chapter 201 also provides that the holder of the permit may transport lobsters within the State. It directs the Department of Marine Resources to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters on the implementation and impact of the nonresident lobster and crab landing permit on the lobster resource and related businesses by January 3, 2009.

# LD 324 Resolve, To Require the Department of Marine Resources To Report on Results of Anadromous Fish Restoration on the Kennebec River System

ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
FLETCHER	ONTP MAJ	
	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 324 requires the Department of Marine Resources to develop and perform a comprehensive cost and benefit analysis of the restoration of anadromous fish to the Kennebec River system and report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by January 15, 2008.

#### LD 377 An Act To Fund a Joint Appointment for a Groundfish Ecologist

DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
TURNER	ОТР	

LD 377 makes ongoing General Fund appropriations of \$100,000 per year for the Department of Marine Resources for its share of the costs of a groundfish ecologist to be employed by the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

#### LD 384 An Act To Further Protect Water Quality in Coastal Waters

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	<u>Committee Report</u>	Amendments Adopted
PERCY	ONTP	

LD 384 prohibits the feeding of migratory waterfowl and seagulls on public property in the intertidal zone. It also requires the removal of fecal matter of pets on public property in the intertidal zone.

### LD 403 An Act To Encourage Municipalities To Abate Coastal Pollution

PUBLIC 15 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	<u>Committee Report</u>	Amendments Adopted
GERZOFSKY	OTP-AM	H-31
		H-33 PERCY

Under current law, the Commissioner of Marine Resources must consult with a municipal shellfish conservation committee before opening an area for depuration digging. LD 403 requires the commissioner to obtain the approval of the committee before taking such action.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-31)

This committee amendment is an emergency measure and allows a town with a municipal shellfish conservation committee 2 years to develop a pollution abatement plan to manage a shellfish growing area within its jurisdiction that has been downgraded to a restricted classification after January 1, 2006, before that area is opened to depuration harvesting. Beginning April 1, 2007, a municipality must notify the commissioner

within 8 weeks of the reclassification of an area whether or not it intends to develop a pollution abatement plan. If a municipality develops a pollution abatement plan within 2 years from the date of the reclassification, the Commissioner of Marine Resources must obtain the permission of the municipality before opening the area to depuration harvesting. If the municipality does not wish to develop a pollution abatement plan or if it fails to notify the commissioner within the 8-week period, municipal approval is not required before opening the area to depuration harvesting. This committee amendment allows a town to manage the depuration harvesting within its jurisdiction if it has a depuration management plan approved by the Commissioner of Marine Resources. It also requires a depuration plant operator to file a general management plan with the Commissioner of Marine Resources that includes a timeline for harvest, harvest limits and harvester selection.

#### House Amendment "A" (H-33)

This House amendment is a technical amendment that provides a missing legal action verb.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 15 allows a town with a municipal shellfish conservation committee 2 years to develop a pollution abatement plan to manage a shellfish growing area within its jurisdiction that has been downgraded to a restricted classification after January 1, 2006, before that area is opened to depuration harvesting. Beginning April 1, 2007, a municipality must notify the commissioner within 8 weeks of the reclassification of an area whether or not it intends to develop a pollution abatement plan. If a municipality develops a pollution abatement plan within 2 years from the date of the reclassification, the Commissioner of Marine Resources must obtain the permission of the municipality before opening the area to depuration harvesting. If the municipality does not wish to develop a pollution abatement plan or if it fails to notify the commissioner within the 8-week period, municipal approval is not required before opening the area to depuration harvesting. Under current law, the Commissioner of Marine Resources must consult with a municipal shellfish conservation committee before opening an area for depuration digging. Public Law 2007, chapter 15 allows a town to manage the depuration harvesting within its jurisdiction if it has a depuration management plan approved by the Commissioner of Marine Resources. It also requires a depuration plant operator to file a general management plan with the Commissioner of Marine Resources that includes a timeline for harvest, harvest limits and harvester selection.

Public Law 2007, chapter 15 was an emergency measure effective March 22, 2007.

# LD 492 An Act To Clarify Who Receives Money from Fines for Violations of Maine's Soft-shelled Clam Laws

DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MACDONALD	OTP-AM	H-205

LD 492 requires that a fine collected for a violation of soft-shelled clam laws be paid to the municipality in which the violation occurred.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-205)

This committee amendment replaces the bill and clarifies that fines issued pursuant to a violation of a municipal shellfish conservation ordinance must be paid to the municipality in which the violation occurred.

#### LD 509 An Act To Amend Laws Pertaining to Entry into the Lobster Fishery

**PUBLIC 204** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MAZUREK	OTP-AM MAJ	H-255
	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 509 makes the following changes to the laws governing entry into the lobster fishery.

- 1. It makes 17 the youngest age at which one can obtain a Class I, II or III commercial lobster and crab fishing license.
- 2. It creates a new lobster management policy council authority that would allow a zone to consider whether or not to create a separate waiting list for young people's entry into that zone.
- 3. It changes the method for calculating a zone's exit-to-entry ratio from lobster licenses not renewed to trap tags retired in the previous year.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-255)

This committee amendment is the majority report and provides that a person that lives year-round on an island that is not connected to the mainland is not required to go on the waiting list proposed in the bill for people under 18 years of age.

#### Committee Amendment "B" (H-256)

This committee amendment is the minority report and provides that a person who lives year-round on an island or in lobster fishing Zone A is not required to go on to the waiting list proposed in the bill for people under 18 years of age.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 204 makes the following changes to the laws governing entry into the lobster fishery:

- 1. It makes 17 the youngest age at which one can obtain a Class I, II or III commercial lobster and crab fishing license;
- 2. It creates a new lobster management policy council authority that would allow a zone to consider whether or not to create a separate waiting list for young people's entry into that zone; and
- 3. It changes the method for calculating a zone's exit-to-entry ratio from lobster licenses not renewed to trap tags retired in the previous year.

Public Law 2007, chapter 204 also provides that a person that lives year-round on an island that is not connected to the mainland is not required to go on the waiting list for people under 18 years of age.

#### LD 554 An Act To Amend the Shellfish Laws

**PUBLIC 54** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GERZOFSKY	ОТР	

LD 554 makes the following changes to Maine's shellfish laws:

- 1. It reduces the amount of shellstock an individual may harvest per day for personal use from 1/2 bushel to one peck;
- 2. It prevents persons who have had their shellfish harvesting license suspended from being able to harvest for personal use; and
- 3. It creates a new surf clam boat license, which allows vessels engaged in harvesting surf clams to obtain one license that covers all crew members.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 54 makes the following changes to Maine's shellfish laws:

- 1. It reduces the amount of shellstock an individual may harvest per day for personal use from 1/2 bushel to one peck;
- 2. It prevents persons who have had their shellfish harvesting license suspended from being able to harvest for personal use; and
- 3. It creates a new surf clam boat license, which allows vessels engaged in harvesting surf clams to obtain one license that covers all crew members.

#### LD 586 An Act To Simplify Notification Procedures for Water Quality Changes

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MACDONALD	ONTP	

This bill requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to promptly notify interested parties when the commissioner has determined that the water quality has changed to a level that affects the status of an area or waters. Notification must include use of an online notification system, including notifying interested parties through electronic mail and posting a notice on the department's publicly accessible website.

#### LD 621 Resolve, To Establish a Lobster Trap Tag Transfer Program

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	<u>Committee Report</u>	Amendments Adopted
TUTTLE	ONTP	
SNOWE-MELLO		

LD 621 requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to establish a lobster trap tag transfer program that allows the holder of lobster trap tags to sell or otherwise transfer any number of that person's lobster trap tags to another person who holds a valid lobster and crab fishing license. It provides that the program must include a cap on the number of trap tags at no more than 2006 levels and a \$5 transfer fee. Revenues raised under this program must be used to fund lobster restocking or for other comparable conservation measures. LD 621 directs the Commissioner of Marine Resources to submit the draft lobster trap tag transfer program and draft legislation to implement the program to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by January 11, 2008.

# LD 691 An Act To Reduce Lobster and Crab Fishing License Fees for Persons 70 Years of Age or Older

**PUBLIC 138** 

Sponsor(s)	<u>Committee Report</u>	Amendments Adopted
EATON	OTP-AM	H-154

Currently a person 70 years of age or older is eligible to pay a fee of \$56 for a lobster and crab fishing license. If that individual wants a helper, the fee increases to \$228.50. LD 691decreases the fee for a Class II license, which allows for the hiring of a helper, from \$228.50 to \$145 for a person 70 years of age or older.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-154)

This committee amendment replaces the bill and reduces by approximately 50% the fees for Class I, II and III lobster and crab fishing licenses and the surcharges on those licenses for applicants 70 years of age or older.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 138 reduces by approximately 50% the fees for Class I, II and III lobster and crab fishing licenses and the surcharges on those licenses for applicants 70 years of age or older.

#### LD 784 An Act To Enhance the Natural Resources Protection Laws

ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
SCHATZ	ONTP MAJ	
	OTP-AM MIN	

Current law requires a person seeking to conduct aquaculture activities in the coastal waters of the state to go through a lease application process administered by the Department of Marine Resources but exempts that person from also undergoing the permitting process under the Natural Resources Protection Act. LD 784 amends the law to require a person applying for an aquaculture lease to also obtain a permit from the Department of Environmental Protection under the Natural Resource Protection Act.

#### LD 796 An Act To Create the Endangered or Threatened Marine Species Fund

**PUBLIC 25** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAMON	OTP-AM	S-12

LD 796 authorizes the Department of Marine Resources to accept donations of equipment and funding from any source to assist with its work on behalf of endangered or threatened marine species.

#### **Committee Amendment "A" (S-12)**

This committee amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 25 allows the Department of Marine Resources to accept donations of equipment and funding from any source to assist with its work on behalf of endangered or threatened marine species.

#### LD 798 An Act To Standardize Inshore Dragging Seasons for Scallops and Sea Cucumbers

**CARRIED OVER** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAMON		

LD 798 changes the sea cucumber dragging season from July 1st to September 30th to April 16th to November 30th to align with the scallop season.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369.

#### LD 847 An Act To Support the Commercial Groundfish Industry

DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
RECTOR	OTP-AM	H-278
DAMON		

LD 847 is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

LD 847 proposes to allow Maine commercial fishermen who are dragging for shrimp to be able to land and sell herring as a bycatch up to a specified limitation. This concept is an emergency.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-278)

This committee amendment establishes a groundfish industry incentive program within the Department of Marine Resources. The program provides groundfish vessels that land and sell at least 90% of their catch in the State with rebates on ice purchased in this State and handling and transportation costs for groundfish landed in this State and exempts these groundfish vessels from the fuel sales tax. This committee amendment also provides an appropriations and allocations section. It also provides that the groundfish industry incentive program and the fuel tax exemption are repealed June 1, 2010.

### LD 1036 An Act To Appropriate Funds To Restore Clam Flats in Stockton Harbor BY REQUEST

DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
WEDDELL	OTP-AM	H-88

LD 1036 provides funds to restore the clam flats in Stockton Harbor.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-88)

This committee amendment adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

# LD 1318 Resolve, To Conduct an Independent Review of the Department of Marine Resources, Public Health Division

RESOLVE 82 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
WEBSTER	OTP-AM	H-326
		S-193 DAMON

LD 1318 requires the Department of Marine Resources and the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to facilitate the implementation of an independent review and audit of program procedures and protocol of the water quality assessment functions of the Public Health Division of the Department of Marine Resources.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-326)

This committee amendment replaces the section of LD 1318 that directs the Department of Marine Resources and the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability to conduct a review and audit of the public health division within the Department of Marine Resources and:

- 1. Directs Maine Sea Grant to work with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference to develop a scope of work and issue a request for proposals to conduct a review of the program procedures in the public health division within the Department of Marine Resources;
- 2. Establishes a 3-member scoring committee to select a vendor from applications received in response to the request for proposals by Maine Sea Grant;
- 3. Establishes a special fund within the Department of Marine Resources to be used only for the purpose of conducting a review of program procedures and authorizes the department to accept outside funding for this special fund;
- 4. Directs Maine Sea Grant, in conjunction with the vendor selected to conduct the review and after review and comment by the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, to provide a report on the review of the public health division within the Department of Marine Resources to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by January 15, 2008;
- 5. Directs the Department of Marine Resources to work with members of the shellfish harvesting industry to determine the need and feasibility of a shellfish advisory council and to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by January 15, 2008; and
- 6. Adds an appropriations and allocations section.

#### Senate Amendment "A" (S-193)

This Senate amendment clarifies that expenditures from the Special Fund for Peer Review of the Department of Marine Resources, Public Health Division are limited to grants distributed at the direction of the 3-member scoring committee established in Committee Amendment "A."

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2007, chapter 82 does the following:

1. Directs Maine Sea Grant to work with the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference to develop a scope of work and issue a request for proposals to conduct a review of the program procedures in the public health division within

the Department of Marine Resources;

- 2. Establishes a 3-member scoring committee to select a vendor from applications received in response to the request for proposals by Maine Sea Grant;
- 3. Establishes a special fund within the Department of Marine Resources to be used only for the purpose of conducting a review of program procedures as directed by the 3-member scoring committee and authorizes the department to accept outside funding for this special fund;
- 4. Directs Maine Sea Grant, in conjunction with the vendor selected to conduct the review and after review and comment by the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, to provide a report on the review of the public health division within the Department of Marine Resources to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by January 15, 2008; and
- 5. Directs the Department of Marine Resources to work with members of the shellfish harvesting industry to determine the need and feasibility of a shellfish advisory council and to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by January 15, 2008.

Resolve 2007, chapter 82 was an emergency measure effective June 15, 2007.

#### LD 1409 An Act To Make Technical Changes to Maine's Aquaculture Statutes

**PUBLIC 212** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PERCY	OTP-AM	H-251

LD 1409 proposes to make several technical changes to Maine's aquaculture statutes. It provides a more specific definition for "intertidal zone" for the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 605, subchapter 2. It allows a limited-purpose aquaculture license to be issued to a municipal shellfish committee. It prohibits a person from marking or designating an area as a sea farm or aquaculture lease unless the area is currently leased for aquaculture or is under consideration for leasing through the aquaculture lease process. Finally, it provides that information obtained from other state, federal or foreign government agencies about aquaculture operations in their jurisdictions that is designated as confidential must be kept confidential by the Department of Marine Resources.

LD 1409 was reviewed and evaluated by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary pursuant to MRSA Title 1, § 434, which requires review and evaluation of new exceptions to laws governing public records.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-251)

This committee amendment makes a technical change to reallocate a section of the bill to a more appropriate place in statute.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 212 provides a more specific definition for "intertidal zone" for the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, chapter 605, subchapter 2. It also allows a limited-purpose aquaculture license to be issued to a municipal shellfish committee. Public Law 2007, chapter 212 prohibits a person from marking or designating an area as a sea farm or aquaculture lease unless the area is currently leased for aquaculture or is under consideration for leasing through the aquaculture lease process. It also provides that information obtained from other state, federal or foreign government agencies about aquaculture operations in their jurisdictions that is designated as confidential must be kept confidential by the Department of Marine Resources.

# LD 1420 An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Definition of "Coastal Area" and To Aid the Implementation of the Taunton Bay Resource Management Plan

PUBLIC 157

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAMON	OTP-AM	S-85

LD 1420 amends the definition of "territorial waters" in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, Part 9 to extend that area from 3 nautical miles to 12 nautical miles. It directs the Department of Marine Resources and the Public Utilities Commission to review the coastal management policies contained in Title 38, chapter 19 and develop new policies and recommendations to update those provisions. LD 1420 also directs the Department of Marine Resources and the Public Utilities Commission to report their recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by January 5, 2008.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (S-85)

This committee amendment replaces the bill and instead of amending the definition of a "territorial waters" it amends the definition of "coastal area" to clarify that that area only extends out 3 nautical miles. Current law provides that whenever the Commissioner of Marine Resources adopts rules that limit the taking of one marine organism to protect another, those rules are major substantive rules. This committee amendment makes similar rules regarding the Taunton Bay Resource Management Plan routine technical instead of major substantive rules.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 157 amends the definition of "coastal area" to clarify that that area only extends out 3 nautical miles. Current law provides that whenever the Commissioner of Marine Resources adopts rules that limit the taking of one marine organism to protect another, those rules are major substantive rules. Public Law 2007, chapter 157 makes similar rules regarding the Taunton Bay Resource Management Plan routine technical instead of major substantive rules.

# LD 1528 Resolve, To Require State Agencies with Jurisdiction over Dams To Review and Update Plans for the Passage of Native Diadromous Fish

RESOLVE 109

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAMON	OTP-AM MAJ	S-252
	OTP-AM MAJ	
	ONTP MIN	

LD 1528 requires that dams in this State in all classifications of fresh and estuarine surface waters must provide safe and effective upstream and downstream passage for indigenous diadromous fish. Diadromous fish are those fish that migrate from fresh to sea water or sea water to fresh water and are known as anadramous and catadramous fish, such as alewives, shad and salmon. It also provides a process for any person to bring a civil action against violators of the requirements.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (S-252)

This committee amendment replaces the bill with a resolve and directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Environmental Protection to do the following:

- 1. Conduct a detailed review of current efforts to provide eel and other native diadromous fish species both upstream and downstream passage over dams on the Kennebec River and the Sebasticook River;
- 2. Review current plans and identify impediments to providing eel and other diadromous fish upstream and downstream passage on all rivers of the State;
- 3. Develop an amendment to the water quality classifications and standards in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38 that includes fish kills within those standards and classifications and provides a definition for "fish kill" and consult with the appropriate experts on the proposed amendment and definition to determine if it will allow the State to require fish passage at licensed and unlicensed dams;
- 4. Determine the need and feasibility of establishing or modifying timelines within which the Board of Environmental Protection must respond to a citizen petition and, if the Board of Environmental Protection accepts a petition, a timeline within which it must issue a decision on the merits of that petition; and
- 5. Report their findings and recommendations along with implementing legislation jointly to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources and the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources no later than January 30, 2008.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2007, chapter 109 directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Environmental Protection to do the following:

- 1. Conduct a detailed review of current efforts to provide eel and other native diadromous fish species both upstream and downstream passage over dams on the Kennebec River and the Sebasticook River;
- 2. Review current plans and identify impediments to providing eel and other diadromous fish upstream and downstream passage on all rivers of the State;
- 3. Develop an amendment to the water quality classifications and standards in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38 that includes fish kills within those standards and classifications and provides a definition for "fish kill" and consult with the appropriate experts on the proposed amendment and definition to determine if it will allow the State to require fish passage at licensed and unlicensed dams;
- 4. Determine the need and feasibility of establishing or modifying timelines within which the Board of Environmental Protection must respond to a citizen petition and, if the Board of Environmental Protection accepts a petition, a timeline within which it must issue a decision on the merits of that petition; and
- 5. Report their findings and recommendations along with implementing legislation jointly to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources and the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources no later than January 30, 2008.

### LD 1570 An Act To Support Commercial Groundfishing

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
RECTOR		

LD 1570 exempts diesel fuel used for the purpose of operating or propelling a commercial groundfishing boat from the sales tax. "Commercial groundfishing boat" is defined as a boat that is licensed to harvest and is used for

harvesting northeast multispecies fish.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369.

# LD 1594 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Closed Periods for the Hauling of Lobster Traps

**CARRIED OVER** 

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PERRY A		

LD 1594 changes the closed period for hauling lobster traps from June 1st through October 31st to June 1st through August 31st.

This bill was carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369.

#### LD 1595 An Act To Ensure the Proper Management of the Sea Urchin Industry

**PUBLIC 176** 

Sponsor(s)	<u>Committee Report</u>	Amendments Adopted
EMERY	OTP-AM	H-191

LD 1595 is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

LD 1595 proposes to amend the current law to change the Sea Urchin Zone Council from an advisory council role to give it authority to move forward to create a stronger role in the decision-making process and management of the sea urchin industry. It proposes to add the chair of the Sea Urchin Zone Council to the Marine Resources Advisory Council. It also proposes to change the appointment of members on the Sea Urchin Zone Council so that the members in the fishing industry are elected to the council and the members not from the fishing industry are appointed to the council by the Department of Marine Resources. It also proposes to have the council work with the Commissioner of Marine Resources to change the number of council members.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 176 adds the chair of the Sea Urchin Zone Council to the Marine Resources Advisory Council and changes the makeup of the Sea Urchin Zone Council. It also reduces the number of Sea Urchin Zone Council members from 19 to 15 and provides that 7 members are to be elected by the sea urchin industry and 8 appointed by the Commissioner of Marine Resources.

### LD 1769 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 11.15: Scallop Conservation Areas, Beals-Jonesport, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Marine Resources

RESOLVE 28 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	<u>Committee Report</u>	Amendments Adopted
	OTP	

LD 1769 provides for legislative review of portions of Chapter 11.15: Scallop Conservation Areas, Beals-Jonesport, a major substantive rule of the Department of Marine Resources.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Resolve 2007, chapter 28 provides for the adoption of portions of Chapter 11.15: Scallop Conservation Areas, Beals-Jonesport, a major substantive rule of the Department of Marine Resources. The rules close two small areas of state waters to all diver and mobile gear fishing in Moosebec Reach for a period of 3 years to conduct a scallop enhancement and re-colonization experiment.

Resolve 2007, chapter 28 was an emergency measure effective May 18, 2007.

#### LD 1811 An Act To Create a Saltwater Recreational Fishing License

INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PERCY	OTP-AM MAJ	
DAMON	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1811 establishes a saltwater recreational fishing license, dedicates the fees from licensing to the Marine Recreation Fishing Conservation and Management Fund and gives the Commissioner of Marine Resources authority to make expenditures from the fund for purposes such as fisheries management research and education and outreach.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-363)

This committee amendment is the majority report and replaces the bill. It requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to develop and determine how to implement a saltwater recreational fishing license, permit or registry for the coastal waters of the State that will exempt saltwater recreational anglers and charter boat fishing vessels from the federal registration program established in the reauthorized federal Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. This committee amendment requires the commissioner to report the commissioner's findings, recommendations and any implementing legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by no later than January 15, 2008. It also authorizes the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources to submit legislation related to that report to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

#### Committee Amendment "B" (H-364)

This committee amendment is the minority report and replaces the bill. It requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to develop and determine how to implement a saltwater recreational fishing license, permit or registry for the coastal waters of the State that will exempt saltwater recreational anglers and charter boat fishing vessels from the federal registration program established in the reauthorized federal Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. This committee amendment also requires the commissioner to report the commissioner's findings, recommendations and any implementing legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters by no later than January 15, 2009. It authorizes the joint standing committee to submit legislation related to that report to the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

# LD 1870 An Act To Provide Flexibility within the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area and To Strengthen the Eligibility Requirements for a Student Lobster Fishing License

PUBLIC 219 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
PERCY	OTP-AM	Н-279
DAMON		

LD 1870 proposes to the following changes to the laws governing lobstering in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area.

- 1. It changes the parameters of the open season that the Commissioner of Marine Resources establishes by rule from a period of 180 days between December 1st and June 25th to a period of not more than 270 days between September 1st and June 25th.
- 2. It charges the commissioner with establishing by rule a trap limit for the area not to exceed 475 traps per individual. The same procedural guidelines in place for establishing the open and closed seasons will also apply to setting the trap limit, specifically:
  - A. Two-thrids of the individuals registered to obtain area trap tags must agree with the limit;
  - B. A public hearing is not required;
  - C. No one may petition for adoption or modification of a rule establishing the trap limit; and
  - D. The commissioner need not have the advice and consent of the Marine Resources Advisory Council to adopt the limit.

#### Committee Amendment "A" (H-279)

This committee amendment replaces the title of the bill with "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Lobster Fishing in Monhegan Island Conservation Area and to Amend the Requirements for a Student Lobster and Crab Fishing License." It also:

- 1. Changes the proposed start for the open season on lobster fishing in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area from September 1st to October 1st and limits the proposed number of days open to fishing from 270 to 250 and removes the requirement that those days be consecutive;
- 2. Provides that the Commissioner of Marine Resources may accept the open season and trap limits for lobster fishing in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area preferences proposed by 2/3 of the registrants in that area as reasonable and adopt those preferences or reject the proposed preferences as unreasonable. The commissioner must consult with the lobster management policy council for Zone D before making a decision on the preferences proposed by the registrants;
- 3. Increases the number of days a person must apprentice in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area from 150 days to 200 days to match the apprenticeship requirements in other lobster zones;
- 4. Provides that a person registered to fish lobsters in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area must have harvested lobsters during 5 open seasons in that area before that person can fish elsewhere in Zone D without having to go on a waiting list to fish lobsters in that zone; and
- 5. Directs the Commissioner of Marine Resources to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters no later than January 15, 2011 on the results of the open season and trap limit change for fishing lobsters in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area.

#### **Enacted Law Summary**

Public Law 2007, chapter 219 makes the following changes to the laws governing lobstering in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area:

- 1. Changes the proposed start for the open season on lobster fishing in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area from September 1st to October 1st and limits the proposed number of days open to fishing from 270 to 250 and removes the requirement that those days be consecutive;
- 2. Provides that the Commissioner of Marine Resources may accept the open season and trap limits for lobster fishing in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area preferences proposed by 2/3 of the registrants in that area as reasonable and adopt those preferences or reject the proposed preferences as unreasonable. The commissioner must consult with the lobster management policy council for Zone D before making a decision on the preferences proposed by the registrants;

- 3. Increases the number of days a person must apprentice in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area from 150 days to 200 days to match the apprenticeship requirements in other lobster zones;
- 4. Provides that a person registered to fish lobsters in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area must have harvested lobsters during 5 open seasons in that area before that person can fish elsewhere in Zone D without having to go on a waiting list to fish lobsters in that zone; and
- 5. Directs the Commissioner of Marine Resources to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters no later than January 15, 2011 on the results of the open season and trap limit change for fishing lobsters in the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area.

Public Law 2007, chapter 1870 was passed as an emergency measure effective June 4, 2007.

#### LD 1883 Resolve, To Modify the 2007 Elver Fishing Season

DIED BETWEEN HOUSES

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
EATON	OTP A OTP-AM B	
	ONTP C	

LD 1883 modifies the elver season by allowing a person to fish for elver every day of the week, including from noon Friday to noon Sunday, during the 2007 elver season only.

# LD 1893 An Act To Create Jobs through the Establishment of a Fund To Enhance Maine's Marine Resource Economy

INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
EMERY	OTP-AM	

LD 1893 establishes the Marine Fisheries Stock Enhancement Fund in the Department of Marine Resources. It provides that money in the fund must be administered by the department for commercial marine stock enhancement to improve the marine economy in this State through applied research, development, production of harvested marine species, infrastructure, monitoring and assessment. LD 1893 provides that money in the fund may be used as federal matching funds. It also appropriates \$250,000 in each year of the 2008-09 biennium to the Marine Fisheries Stock Enhancement Fund.

# SUBJECT INDEX

# Aquaculture

<b>Enacted</b>			
LD 1409	An Act To Make Technical Changes to Maine's Aquaculture Statutes	PUBLIC 212	
Not Enacted			
LD 784	An Act To Enhance the Natural Resources Protection Laws	ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT	
	Clams		
<b>Enacted</b>			
LD 403	An Act To Encourage Municipalities To Abate Coastal Pollution	PUBLIC 15 EMERGENCY	
LD 554	An Act To Amend the Shellfish Laws	PUBLIC 54	
Not Enacted			
LD 156	An Act To Require All Holders of Mahogany Quahog Licenses To Operate Their Own Vessels When Fishing for Quahogs	ONTP	
LD 492	An Act To Clarify Who Receives Money from Fines for Violations of Maine's Soft-shelled Clam Laws	DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	
LD 1036	An Act To Appropriate Funds To Restore Clam Flats in Stockton Harbor BY REQUEST	DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	
Commercial Fishing Council			
<b>Enacted</b>			
LD 257	An Act To Allow Expense Reimbursement for the Commercial Fishing Safety Council	PUBLIC 34	
	Department of Marine Resources		
<b>Enacted</b>			
LD 1318	Resolve, To Conduct an Independent Review of the Department of Marine Resources, Public Health Division	RESOLVE 82 EMERGENCY	

Not Enacted		
LD 586	An Act To Simplify Notification Procedures for Water Quality Changes	ONTP
LD 1893	An Act To Create Jobs through the Establishment of a Fund To Enhance Maine's Marine Resource Economy	INDEF PP
	Diadromous Fish	
<b>Enacted</b>		
LD 1528	Resolve, To Require State Agencies with Jurisdiction over Dams To Review and Update Plans for the Passage of Native Diadromous Fish	RESOLVE 109
Not Enacted		
LD 324	Resolve, To Require the Department of Marine Resources To Report on Results of Anadromous Fish Restoration on the Kennebec River System	ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT
	Elvers	
Not Enacted		
LD 77	An Act To Provide for the Safety of Elver Fishermen Using Dip Nets	ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT
LD 1883	Resolve, To Modify the 2007 Elver Fishing Season	DIED BETWEEN HOUSES
	Groundfish	
Not Enacted		
LD 377	An Act To Fund a Joint Appointment for a Groundfish Ecologist	DIED ON ADJOURNMENT
LD 847	An Act To Support the Commercial Groundfish Industry	DIED ON ADJOURNMENT
LD 1570	An Act To Support Commercial Groundfishing	CARRIED OVER
Lobster		
<b>Enacted</b>		
LD 16	An Act To Make Lobster Trap Molesting a Civil Offense	PUBLIC 283

LD 311	An Act To Create a Nonresident Lobster and Crab Landing Permit	PUBLIC 201
LD 509	An Act To Amend Laws Pertaining to Entry into the Lobster Fishery	PUBLIC 204
LD 691	An Act To Reduce Lobster and Crab Fishing License Fees for Persons 70 Years of Age or Older	PUBLIC 138
LD 1870	An Act To Provide Flexibility within the Monhegan Lobster Conservation Area and To Strengthen the Eligibility Requirements for a Student Lobster Fishing License	PUBLIC 219 EMERGENCY
Not Enacted		
LD 92	An Act To Modify the Boundaries of Maine's Lobster Fishing Zones	ACCEPTED ONTP REPORT
LD 170	An Act To Permit the Landing of Lobsters Harvested by Methods other than Conventional Traps	ONTP
LD 621	Resolve, To Establish a Lobster Trap Tag Transfer Program	ONTP
LD 1594	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Closed Periods for the Hauling of Lobster Traps	CARRIED OVER
	Miscellaneous	
Enacted		
LD 1420	An Act To Make Technical Changes to the Definition of "Coastal Area" and To Aid the Implementation of the Taunton Bay Resource Management Plan	PUBLIC 157
Not Enacted		
LD 384	An Act To Further Protect Water Quality in Coastal Waters	ONTP
	Recreational Saltwater Fishing	
Not Enacted		
LD 1811	An Act To Create a Saltwater Recreational Fishing License	INDEF PP
Scallops and Sea Cucumbers		
<b>Enacted</b>		
LD 1769	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 11.15: Scallop Conservation Areas, Beals-Jonesport, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Marine Resources	RESOLVE 28 EMERGENCY
Not Enacted		

LD 798	An Act To Standardize Inshore Dragging Seasons for Scallops and Sea Cucumbers	CARRIED OVER
	Sea Urchins	
<b>Enacted</b>		
LD 1595	An Act To Ensure the Proper Management of the Sea Urchin Industry	PUBLIC 176
Not Enacted		
LD 139	An Act To Provide Flexibility for Sea Urchin Zones	ONTP
	Threatened and Endangered Species	
<b>Enacted</b>		
LD 140	An Act To List the Shortnose Sturgeon as a Marine Endangered Species	PUBLIC 6
LD 796	An Act To Create the Endangered or Threatened Marine Species Fund	PUBLIC 25

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