

STATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
MARINE RESOURCES**

May 2026

MEMBERS:

SEN. DENISE TEPLER, CHAIR
SEN. CAMERON RENY
SEN. MARIANNE MOORE

REP. ALLISON HEPLER, CHAIR
REP. MORGAN J. RIELLY
REP. CHERYL A. GOLEK
REP. HOLLY RAE EATON
REP. WAYNE K. FARRIN
REP. JAMES E. THORNE
REP. TIFFANY STROUT
REP. IRENE A. GIFFORD
REP. ABDEN S. SIMMONS
REP. PETER CONLEY WOOD

STAFF:

ANNE DAVISON, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670
<http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

SUBJECT INDEX

Aquaculture

Enacted LD 2025 An Act to Create a Limited-purpose License for Aquaculture Nursery and Husbandry Activities and to Clarify the Aquaculture Lease Amendment Process PUBLIC 672

Not Enacted LD 1026 An Act to Provide Mapping Services for Aquaculture Lease Siting ONTP

Fisheries Management

Enacted LD 1353 An Act Regarding Required Landings in the Menhaden Fishery PUBLIC 761

LD 1991 An Act to Authorize an Educational Requirement for Seaweed Permit Holders PUBLIC 569

LD 2013 An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Adopt Emergency Rules to Protect Certain Marine Mammals in Exceptional Circumstances PUBLIC 625

Licenses and Certificates

Enacted LD 1353 An Act Regarding Required Landings in the Menhaden Fishery PUBLIC 761

LD 2024 An Act to Make Changes to Certain Licensing Laws Governing For-hire Charter Boat Operators, Lobster and Crab Fishing and Elver Dealers PUBLIC 570

LD 2025 An Act to Create a Limited-purpose License for Aquaculture Nursery and Husbandry Activities and to Clarify the Aquaculture Lease Amendment Process PUBLIC 672

Not Enacted LD 2031 An Act to Offer Military Veterans a 50 Percent Discount on the License Fee for a Commercial Shellfish License Majority (ONTP) Report

Lobsters and Crabs

Enacted LD 2002 An Act to Extend the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative to December 31, 2028 PUBLIC 612

Marine Resources - Other

**Not
Enacted**

LD 475 An Act to Protect Maine's Marine Resources

Leave to Withdraw
Pursuant to Joint
Rule 310

Rulemaking

Enacted

LD 2013 An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Adopt
Emergency Rules to Protect Certain Marine Mammals in Exceptional
Circumstances

PUBLIC 625

DIGEST OF BILLS
132ND LEGISLATURE SECOND REGULAR SESSION - 2026

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

Committee	LD	Title	Sponsor	Committee Vote	Disposition	Law	Ch #	Analyst Note
MAR	475	An Act to Protect Maine's Marine Resources	Tepler, Denise	LTW	Leave to Withdraw Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
MAR	1026	An Act to Provide Mapping Services for Aquaculture Lease Siting	Reny, Cameron	ONTP	Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310			
MAR	1353	An Act Regarding Required Landings in the Menhaden Fishery	Faulkingham, Billy Bob	OTP-AM/ONTP	Enacted	PL	761	
MAR	1991	An Act to Authorize an Educational Requirement for Seaweed Permit Holders	Tepler, Denise	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	569	
MAR	2002	An Act to Extend the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative to December 31, 2028	Reny, Cameron	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	612	
MAR	2013	An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Adopt Emergency Rules to Protect Certain Marine Mammals in Exceptional Circumstances	Hepler, Allison	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	625	
MAR	2024	An Act to Make Changes to Certain Licensing Laws Governing For-hire Charter Boat Operators, Lobster and Crab Fishing and Elver Dealers	Hepler, Allison	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	570	
MAR	2025	An Act to Create a Limited-purpose License for Aquaculture Nursery and Husbandry Activities and to Clarify the Aquaculture Lease Amendment Process	Rielly, Morgan	OTP-AM	Enacted	PL	672	
MAR	2031	An Act to Offer Military Veterans a 50 Percent Discount on the License Fee for a Commercial Shellfish License	Tuell, Will	ONTP/OTP-AM	Accepted Majority (ONTP) Report			

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
MARINE RESOURCES**

LD 1353 An Act Regarding Required Landings in the Menhaden Fishery

Public Law 2025, chapter 761 requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt rules by December 31, 2027 to establish a limited entry commercial menhaden fishing license system that, once the number of licenses falls below 350 licenses and as long as the fishery exit ratio is one to one, provides preference to individuals who meet the established eligibility standards and who, based on municipality of residence, reside the farthest east in Maine. If more than one eligible individual resides in the same municipality, the commissioner is required to determine randomly which individual is given first preference. The commissioner is required to assign licenses under the preference system as soon as practicable following the effective date of the law. Until the commissioner establishes the limited entry system, the eligibility standards must be used, except that the rules may not take effect until all individuals who meet the preference requirements have been offered the opportunity to obtain a license.

LD 1991 An Act to Authorize an Educational Requirement for Seaweed Permit Holders

Public Law 2025, chapter 569 authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to require an educational course for the issuance or renewal of a seaweed permit. If the educational course requirement applies only to certain species of seaweed, the commissioner may require an endorsement on the seaweed permit for those species, which must be made available at no charge.

Public Law 2025, chapter 569 also requires the Department of Marine Resources to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters no later than February 1, 2028 with findings and recommendations related to the implementation of the educational course being developed for the issuance or renewal of a seaweed permit. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

LD 2002 An Act to Extend the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative to December 31, 2028

Public Law 2025, chapter 612 changes the repeal date of the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative to December 31, 2028 and provides that members of the collaborative serve staggered terms. The law also directs the Department of Marine Resources to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters no later than January 1, 2028 with an update on the collaborative and the work accomplished by the collaborative in 2026 and 2027. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
MARINE RESOURCES**

LD 2013 An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Adopt Emergency Rules to Protect Certain Marine Mammals in Exceptional Circumstances

Public Law 2025, chapter 625 authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt emergency rules under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8054 to limit the taking of marine organisms by method or location to protect certain marine mammals when the commissioner determines that immediate action is necessary to mitigate circumstances posing an exceptionally high level of risk to those mammals. The law also requires the Department of Marine Resources to submit a report annually, on or before January 1st, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters regarding the use of emergency rulemaking and authorizes the committee to report out a bill based on the report to any regular or special session of the Legislature in the year the report is due.

LD 2024 An Act to Make Changes to Certain Licensing Laws Governing For-hire Charter Boat Operators, Lobster and Crab Fishing and Elver Dealers

Public Law 2025, chapter 570 makes the following changes to certain licensing laws related to marine resources.

1. It clarifies eligibility requirements for a for-hire charter boat operator's license.
2. It amends a provision of law governing lobster and crab trap limits by removing language that describes trap limits prior to March 1, 2000 and repealing a provision that establishes a specific civil penalty for violating trap limits.
3. It removes a prohibition on issuing an elver dealer's license or supplemental license to a person using the same business address as a person who has violated certain laws governing elver dealers for at least 5 years following the violation.

LD 2025 An Act to Create a Limited-purpose License for Aquaculture Nursery and Husbandry Activities and to Clarify the Aquaculture Lease Amendment Process

Public Law 2025, chapter 672 establishes a limited-purpose license for aquaculture nursery and husbandry activities and a process for amending certain types of aquaculture leases to include new species, gear, equipment and structure.

Public Law 2025, chapter 672 also makes the following changes to clarify the aquaculture lease process.

1. It removes the requirement that the holder of a research and aquaculture lease submit an annual seeding and harvesting report for the past year and a seeding and harvesting plan for the coming year.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
MARINE RESOURCES**

2. It establishes a 30-day period after the expiration of a limited-purpose lease for commercial aquaculture research and development in which the holder of the lease may submit an application to extend the lease and submit a \$500 late fee for the lease to remain in effect until the Commissioner of Marine Resources makes a decision regarding the application.
3. It removes the development and management of water quality licensing and monitoring criteria and analysis and evaluation of monitoring data from the allowable expenditures from the Aquaculture Management Fund and allows funds to be used to improve agency management of existing sites, including conducting education and outreach about compliance and inspection.
4. It requires access to aquaculture lease sites, licenses and permits by the commissioner or the commissioner's agent for the purpose of the inspection or the collection of samples and establishes requirements for the collection of samples.
5. It clarifies that seeding and harvesting reports that were submitted to the Department of Marine Resources that were confidential at the time the report was submitted remain confidential until those reports are no longer retained by the department pursuant to any records retention schedule.
6. It makes the results of testing of a sample collected by the Department of Marine Resources confidential except in certain cases.
7. It prohibits the Department of Marine Resources from issuing limited-purpose licenses or authorizing lease amendments for aquaculture until rules are adopted.

**132nd LEGISLATURE
MARINE RESOURCES**

Summary of Committee Actions

I. BILLS AND PAPERS CONSIDERED	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Comm Activity</u>	<u>% of All Bills/Papers</u>
A. Bills referred to Committee			
<i>Bills referred and reported out</i>	6	66.7%	0.8%
<i><u>Bills carried over from previous session</u></i>	<u>3</u>	<u>33.3%</u>	<u>0.4%</u>
Total Bills referred	9	100.0%	1.2%
B. Bills reported out by law or joint order and not referred back to committee	0	0.0%	0.0%
Total Bills considered by Committee	9	100.0%	1.2%
Orders and Resolutions referred to Committee			
<i>Joint Study Orders referred and reported out</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Joint Resolutions/Orders referred and reported out</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Joint Resolutions/Orders carried over from previous session</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Orders and Resolutions Referred	0	0.0%	0.0%
II. COMMITTEE REPORTS	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of this Committee's Reports</u>	<u>% of All Committee Reports</u>
A. Unanimous committee reports			
<i>Ought to Pass</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Ought to Pass as Amended</i>	5	55.6%	1.1%
<i>Leave to Withdraw</i>	1	11.1%	0.2%
<i><u>Ought Not to Pass</u></i>	<u>1</u>	<u>11.1%</u>	<u>0.2%</u>
Total unanimous reports	7	77.8%	1.6%
B. Divided committee reports			
<i>Two-way reports</i>	2	22.2%	0.5%
<i>Three-way reports</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Four-way reports</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total divided reports	2	22.2%	0.5%
Total committee reports	9	100.0%	2.0%
III. CONFIRMATION HEARINGS	11	N/A	N/A
IV. FINAL DISPOSITION	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Comm Bills/Papers</u>	<u>% of All Bills/Papers</u>
A. Bills and Papers enacted or finally passed			
<i>Joint Study Orders</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Public laws</i>	6	66.7%	0.8%
<i>Private and Special Laws</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Resolves</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Constitutional Resolutions</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Enacted or Finally Passed	6	66.7%	0.8%
B. Resolves to authorize major substantive rules			
Rules authorized without legislative changes	0	0.0%	0.0%
Rules authorized with legislative changes	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Rules not authorized by the Legislature</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total number of rules reviewed	0	0.0%	0.0%
C. Bills vetoed or held by Governor			
<i>Vetoed over-ridden</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i>Vetoed sustained</i>	0	0.0%	0.0%
<i><u>Held by the Governor</u></i>	<u>0</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total	0	0.0%	0.0%