

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—
H.P. 1414 - L.D. 1908

An Act To Limit Eligibility for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses

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

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

1-A. Commercial menhaden fishing license eligibility in 2023. The commissioner may not issue a 2023 resident commercial menhaden fishing license or a 2023 nonresident commercial menhaden fishing license to an individual unless that individual:

A. Possessed a license to fish commercially for menhaden in at least 2 of the following 3 years, 2019, 2020 or 2021; and

B. According to department records, reported legal landings of menhaden of 25,000 pounds or more in at least one of the following 4 years, 2019, 2020, 2021 or 2022.

Documentation, acceptable to the department, showing that the landing requirement in this paragraph has been met must be submitted to the department by January 1, 2023.

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

1-B. Commercial menhaden fishing license eligibility after 2023. The commissioner may not issue a resident commercial menhaden fishing license or a nonresident commercial menhaden fishing license to an individual in any year subsequent to 2023 unless that individual possessed that license in the previous calendar year.

Sec. 3. Report. By January 15, 2023, the Commissioner of Marine Resources shall submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters with details on the implementation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6502-C, subsections 1-A and 1-B. The committee has the authority to report out a bill to the 131st Legislature in 2023 based on the report.