



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 563

H.P. 387

House of Representatives, February 26, 2015

An Act Regarding the Purchase of Trap Tags in the Lobster Fishery

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative KUMIEGA of Deer Isle.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6431-F, sub-§2**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 239, §2, is
3 further amended to read:

4 **2. Exceptions.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, the following trap tag limits apply:

5 A. If the license holder was issued a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab
6 fishing license for the first time after meeting the requirements of the apprentice
7 program under section 6422, the license holder may not purchase more than 300 trap
8 tags for the initial license year. For each following year, the license holder may
9 purchase up to an increase of 100 trap tags each year as long as the total number
10 purchased does not exceed the number of traps allowed under the lowest trap limit
11 established by rule for the zones identified on that person's license pursuant to section
12 6446, subsection 1-A; ~~and~~

13 C. If the license holder was issued a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab
14 fishing license on appeal, the license holder may purchase for the initial license year a
15 number of trap tags up to the number of trap tags purchased by the person for the
16 most recent year in which the person held a license. For each following year, the
17 license holder may purchase up to an increase of 100 trap tags each year as long as
18 the total number purchased does not exceed the number of traps allowed under the
19 lowest trap limit established by rule for the zones identified on that person's license
20 pursuant to section 6446, subsection 1-A;

21 D. The commissioner shall establish by rule a minimum amount of lobster or crab
22 landings Class I, Class II and Class III lobster and crab fishing license holders must
23 report in each license year beginning after 2015 in order to purchase the maximum
24 number of trap tags under subsection 1. A license holder who does not report the
25 minimum amount of landings established by the commissioner in a license year may
26 not purchase more than 300 trap tags in any subsequent license year. Rules adopted
27 pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375,
28 subchapter 2-A; and

29 E. If the holder of a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab fishing license
30 issued under section 6421 has no reported lobster or crab landings in the 2 years prior
31 to January 1, 2015, the license holder may not purchase more than 300 trap tags for
32 the license year beginning in 2016.

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This bill requires the Commissioner of Marine Resources to establish by rule a
35 minimum amount of lobster or crab landings required of a Class I, Class II or Class III
36 lobster and crab fishing license holder in order for the license holder to purchase the
37 maximum number of trap tags available. If the license holder does not report the required
38 amount of landings, the license holder is not eligible to purchase more than 300 trap tags
39 in any subsequent license year. This bill also provides that a holder of a Class I, Class II
40 or Class III lobster and crab fishing license who has not reported any lobster or crab

1 landings to the Department of Marine Resources during the 2 years prior to January 1,
2 2015 may not purchase more than 300 trap tags in the license year beginning in 2016.