

Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

PUBLIC 536 An Act To Improve Recreational Watercraft Safety

LD 307

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WATSON	OTP-AM A OTP-AM B OTP-AM C	H-850

Public Law 2005, chapter 536, beginning January 1, 2007, prohibits a person 16 or 17 years of age from operating a personal watercraft unless:

1. That person is accompanied on the personal watercraft by someone at least 18 years of age; or
2. That person while operating the personal watercraft possesses identification showing proof of age and proof of successful completion of an approved boater safety education course.

Public Law 2005, chapter 536 also directs the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Commissioner of Marine Resources to work together and with other interested parties to study the feasibility of developing a statewide boater safety education program and to report back their findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources by February 1, 2007.

**RESOLVE 131 Resolve, To Direct the Department of Inland Fisheries and
Wildlife To Determine the Feasibility of Integrating Certain Moose
Management Practices between Tribal and Nontribal Lands**

LD 477

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MOORE F	OTP-AM	H-743

Resolve 2005, chapter 131 directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to work with tribal members to determine the feasibility of providing moose hunting permits to tribal members for use on nontribal lands without jeopardizing the State's moose management goals. Among other things it requires the department to consider authorizing the use of tribally issued moose permits on non-tribal lands and the issuance of moose permits by the department to tribal members. Resolve 2005, chapter 131 also directs the department to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by January 17, 2007 and authorizes that committee to report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

**PUBLIC 465 An Act To Authorize the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and
EMERGENCY Wildlife To Allow the Operation of Snowmobiles Registered
outside the State at Special Events Occurring in the State**

LD 1695

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN	OTP-AM	S-435

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Public Law 2005, chapter 465 corrects an error that was made when Public Law 2005, chapter 456 removed the authority granted to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by Public Law 2005, chapter 1 to allow the operation of snowmobiles registered outside the State at special events occurring in the State.

Public Law 2005, chapter 465 was enacted as an emergency measure effective February 1, 2006.

PUBLIC 547 **An Act To Allow Smelt Dipping in Mud Brook in Aroostook County** **LD 1813**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMITH W MARTIN	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-806 S-524 BRYANT B

Public Law 2005, chapter 547 allows a person to harvest no more than two quarts of smelt per day with a dip net from Mud Brook, a tributary of Long Lake in Aroostook County. It prohibits the harvest of smelt from Mud Brook for commercial purposes. Public Law 2005, chapter 547 is repealed on July 1, 2009.

PUBLIC 504 **An Act To Protect Volunteer-earned Funds of the Maine Wildlife Park** **LD 1819**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
AUSTIN TURNER	OTP-AM	H-778

Public Law 2005, chapter 504 provides that volunteer-earned funds of the Maine Wildlife Park may not be used to reduce overall state funding of the park.

PUBLIC 470 **An Act To Prevent the Introduction of Pathogens into the State** **LD 1832**
EMERGENCY **That Threaten the Health of Maine's Fish and Wildlife Resources**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WATSON PERRY J	OTP-AM	H-742

Public Law 2005, chapter 470 authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt rules to prevent the introduction of pathogens into the State that pose a significant risk to Maine's fish and wildlife resources.

Public Law 2005, chapter 470 was enacted as an emergency measure effective February 17, 2006.

PUBLIC 477 **An Act To Revise Certain Fish and Wildlife Laws** **LD 1939**
EMERGENCY

Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Sponsor(s)
BRYANT B
WATSON

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-446

Public Law 2005, chapter 477 does the following:

1. It changes the State Government Evaluation Act review for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife from 2005 to 2007;
2. It changes the penalty for taking an antlerless deer in Washington County without a permit from a Class E crime to a Class D crime and increases the fine to a mandatory minimum fine of \$1,000 and at least 3 days in jail;
3. It clarifies where a person can fish around fishways on East Grand Lake Dam and Spednic Lake Dam;
4. It clarifies that the prohibition on possessing, selling or transporting an endangered or threatened species includes the parts of those species;
5. It provides a resident disabled veteran a complimentary migratory waterfowl permit, a bear hunting permit and a guide license if that veteran meets the qualifications for a guide license under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12;
6. It clarifies that a person may not fish with more than 3 unbaited artificial flies individually attached to a line or hook;
7. It adds snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles to the provision of law regarding the admissibility in court of hospital test results when a person has been involved in an accident while operating a motor vehicle or watercraft under the influence;
8. It adds .17 caliber firearms to the law prohibiting the use of .22 caliber firearms for hunting deer and moose;
9. It removes Long Lake Wildlife Management Area in Aroostook County from the list of designated wildlife management areas;
10. It clarifies that certain existing laws pertaining to hunting also apply to hunting with crossbows;
11. It allows a super pack licensee to harvest one deer during either the open firearm season or the special archery season or the special muzzle-loading season and one antlerless deer as provided by the license provisions. Prior to Public Law 2005, chapter 477, the holder of a super pack license could take 2 deer; one deer during the regular open firearm season only and one antlerless deer as provided by the license provisions; and
12. It makes changes to certain ice fishing provisions in accordance with MCJUSTIS.

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<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DIAMOND PLUMMER	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-463
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Public Law 2005, chapter 495 increases from \$25,000 to \$100,000 the maximum total value of prize money for a fishing derby that is held on Sebago Lake in Cumberland County and is conducted in conjunction with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's fisheries management objectives.

RESOLVE 179 **Resolve, To Allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
To Convey a Part of a Parcel of Land in the Town of Fairfield** **LD 2050**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FINCH	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-922
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Resolve 2005, chapter 179 authorizes the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to convey a parcel of land in the Town of Fairfield for the appraised fair market value.

PUBLIC 626 **An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the ATV Trail
Advisory Council** **LD 2057**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-947
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Public Law 2005, chapter 626 implements certain recommendations of the ATV Trail Advisory Council report as follows.

1. It gives the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife the discretion to suspend all licenses, permits and registrations issued under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, Part 13 for operating an ATV on a temporarily closed trail or on the land of another without permission. If licenses and registrations are suspended, it must be for a period of at least 90 days;
2. It requires the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to suspend for at least one year all licenses, permits and registrations issued pursuant to Title 12, Part 13 for ATV violations involving the abuse of another's property, operating an ATV under the influence under 21 years of age, operating an ATV to endanger, the reckless operation of an ATV or failing to stop for an officer;
3. It creates 4 part-time positions in the Department of Conservation to help with ATV club and trail development and landowner communications; and
4. It provides that an ATV may be operated on a public way for up to 500 yards if it can be done safely and without interfering with traffic approaching from either direction. Current law allows the operation of an ATV for up to 300 yards under certain conditions.

RESOLVE 172 **Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter** **LD 2066**

Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

1.03: Waters of Special Significance, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

Resolve 2005, chapter 172 authorizes the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to adopt proposed major substantive rules, Chapter 1.03: Waters of Special Significance, regarding the designation and management of brook trout waters.