## NOTICE OF AGENCY RULE-MAKING ADOPTION

**AGENCY:** Department of Marine Resources

# **CHAPTER NUMBER AND TITLE:** Sea Urchin 2022-2023 Season **CONCISE SUMMARY:**

This regulation establishes open harvest days and tote limits for the taking of sea urchins by divers, rakers, trappers, and draggers in Zones 1 and 2 for the 2022-2023 season. For Zone 1, seasons are implemented for divers, trappers, rakers and draggers in 2022-2023, from which harvesters may only fish up to 15 days of their choosing, the same number of days allowed during the 2021-2022 season. For Zone 1, the daily tote limit is nine (9), the same as in the 2021-2022 season. For Zone 2, 40-day seasons are implemented for divers, trappers, rakers and draggers in 2022-2023, from which harvesters may only fish up to 30 days of their choosing. This regulation has the same number of fishing days and opportunity days as the 2021-2022 season is implemented for Zone 2 divers, trappers, rakers and draggers in 2022-2023. For Zone 2, the daily tote limit is six (6), the same as in the 2021-2022 season.

The Blue Hill Bay Limited Access Area designation sunset on April 1, 2022 and that language has been removed from the regulation.

## **ADOPTED RULE NUMBER:**

(LEAVE BLANK-ASSIGNED BY SECRETARY OF STATE)

## **EFFECTIVE DATE:**

(LEAVE BLANK-ASSIGNED BY SECRETARY OF STATE)

AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:	Amanda Ellis (207) 624-6573
AGENCY NAME:	Department of Marine Resources
ADDRESS:	21 State House Station
	Augusta, Maine 04333
WEB SITE:	http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rulemaking/
E-MAIL:	dmr.rulemaking@maine.gov
TELEPHONE:	(207) 624-6573
FAX:	(207) 624-6024
TTY:	(207) 633-9500 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing)

Please approve bottom portion of this form and assign appropriate MFASIS number.

APPROVE	D FOR PAYMENT			_DATE:	
FUND	AGENCY	S-UNIT	APP	OBJT	AMOUNT

## 26.07 Sea Urchin Harvesting Season <u>2022-2023</u> 2021-2022 pursuant to 12 M.R.S. §6749.

Harvesters may choose 15 of the available days in Zone 1 and 30 of the potential 40 available days in Zone 2.

- 1. Zone 1 [as defined by 12 M.R.S. §6749-N(1)]. Harvesters may choose 15 of the available fishing days.
  - A. Early season for divers, trappers and rakers

The Zone 1 season for divers, trappers and rakers who have certified the early season on forms provided by the Commissioner, is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in September and October, <u>2022</u> <del>2021</del>. Divers, trappers, and rakers may fish no more than 15 of these days.

B. Late season for divers, trappers and rakers

The Zone 1 season for divers, trappers and rakers who have certified the late season on forms provided by the Commissioner, is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in December, 2022 2021; and January and February 2023 2022. Divers, trappers, and rakers may fish no more than 15 of these days.

C. Season for draggers [in accordance with 12 M.R.S. §6749-V]

The Zone 1 season for draggers is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays in December, <u>2022</u> <del>2020;</del> and January and February <u>2023</u> <del>2021; except Friday, December 25, 2020 and Friday, January 1, 2021 which shall be closed.</del> Draggers may fish no more than 15 of these days.

- 2. Zone 2 [as defined by 12 M.R.S. §6749-N(2)]. Harvesters may choose 30 of the potential 40 days.
  - A. Early season for divers, trappers and rakers

The Zone 2 season for divers, trappers and rakers who have certified the early season on forms provided by the Commissioner, is open September <u>27 and 28</u>, 2022; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in October, 2022; November 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 and 30, 2022; and, December 1, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 27 and 28, 2022. 21, 22, 23, 28, and 29, 2021; and, October 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28, 2021; and, November 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, and 24, 2021; and, December 1, 2, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 28, and 29, 2021 Divers, trappers, and rakers may fish no more than 30 of these days.

#### B. Late season for divers, trappers and rakers

The Zone 2 season for divers, trappers and rakers who have certified the late season on forms provided by the Commissioner, is open <u>Tuesdays, Wednesdays</u> and Thursdays in December 2022, except for December 1, 2022 which shall be closed; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in January 2023 and February 2023, except February 21, 22 and 23, 2023 which shall be closed; and March 1, 2, 7, 8, 14 and 15, 2023. December 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, and 30, 2021; and January 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, and 26, 2022; and February 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 22, 23 and 24, 2022; and March 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16, 2022. Divers, trappers, and rakers may fish no more than 30 of these days.

C. Early season for draggers

The Zone 2 season for draggers who have certified the early season on forms provided by the Commissioner, is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in October 2022 2021; and November 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 22, 23, 29, 30, 2022; Thursdays and Fridays in December 2022 and also Wednesday, December 21, 2022; and January 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, and 20, 2023. 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, and 30, 2021; and December 2, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 29, and 30, 2021; and January 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, and 20, 2022. Draggers may fish no more than 30 of these days.

D. Late season for draggers

The Zone 2 season for draggers who have certified the late season on forms provided by the Commissioner, is open <u>November 30, 2022</u>; Wednesdays, and Thursdays <u>and Fridays</u> in December <u>2022</u> <del>2021</del>; Wednesdays, and Thursdays <u>and Fridays</u> in January <u>and February 2023</u>; and, January 24, 2023. , <del>2022</del> and on <u>Tuesday January 25, 2022</u>; and Wednesdays and Thursdays in February 2022 and on <u>Tuesday February 15 and Tuesday February 22, 2022</u>; and on <u>Tuesdays</u>, <u>Wednesdays and Thursdays in March 2022 except for March 24, 29, 30 and 31, 2022</u>. Draggers may fish no more than 30 of these days.

#### 26.19 Limited Access Areas

Transiting exception:

Any vessel possessing urchins onboard, may transit the Limited Access Area, only if the vessel has all fishing gear (dredges, drags, regulators, buoyancy compensators, fins, tanks, weight belts) securely stowed. Securely stowed shall mean the main wire shall not be shackled or connected to the dredges or drags, and the towing swivel will be at the block or on the winch for draggers, while regulators, buoyancy compensators and tanks should be disconnected with fins and weight belts removed for divers.

- 1. Whiting and Denny's Bay Area (Zone 2). Harvesters may choose up to 15 days of the following applicable season open days for the Whiting and Denny's Bay limited access area to fish within their 30 days available for harvest.
  - A. Early season for divers, trappers and rakers

It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, or possess urchins west of a line starting at the western end of Mahar Point, Pembroke, due south to the nearest point of land on Crow Neck, Trescott, to include all of Whiting and Denny's Bay except by divers, trappers, and rakers who have certified the early season on forms provided by the Commissioner, on September <u>27 and 28, 2022</u> <u>28 and 29, 2021</u>; Wednesdays in October and November 2022; October 18 and 25, 2022; and December 7 and 14, 2022.; and October 6, 13, 19, 20, 26, and 27, 2021; and Wednesdays in November 2021; and Wednesdays in December 2021 except for December 22 and 29, 2021.

B. Late season for divers, trappers and rakers

It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, or possess urchins west of a line starting at the western end of Mahar Point, Pembroke, due south to the nearest point of land on Crow Neck, Trescott, to include all of Whiting and Denny's Bay except by divers, trappers and rakers who have certified the late season on forms provided by the Commissioner on <u>Tuesdays</u> <del>Wednesdays</del> in December <u>2022</u> <del>2021</del>, except for December 1, 2021; and <u>Tuesdays</u> <del>Wednesdays</del> in January and February <u>2023</u> <del>2022</del>, except <u>Tuesday</u>, February 21, 2023, which shall be closed; and <u>Wednesday</u>, February 15, 2023 and March 7, and 14, 2023. <del>2, 9, and 16, 2022</del>.

C. Early season for draggers

It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, or possess urchins west of a line starting at the western end of Mahar Point, Pembroke, due south to the nearest point of land on Crow Neck, Trescott, to include all of Whiting and Denny's Bay except by draggers who have certified the early season on forms provided by the Commissioner, on Thursdays in October, November and December 2022 2021, except November 24, 2022 25, which shall be closed; and January 5, 12, and 19, 2023. 6, 13 and 20, 2022.

- D. Late season for draggers
  - (1) It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, or possess urchins west of a line starting at the western end of Mahar Point, Pembroke, due south to the nearest point of land on Crow Neck, Trescott, to include all of Whiting and Denny's Bay except by draggers who have certified the late season on forms provided by the Commissioner, on Thursdays in December, 2022 2021 except for December 2, 2021; and Thursdays in January, and

February <u>2023</u> <del>2022</del>; and <u>January 4</u>, 2023 and February 1, 2023. March 3, and 10, and 17, 2022.

(2) Blue Hill Bay Area (Zone 2). Harvesters may fish in the Blue Hill Bay limited access area only in accordance with the following provision:

It shall be unlawful to fish for, take, or possess urchins in Blue Hill Bay, north of a line starting at southernmost tip of Lopaus Point to the northern most point of Black Island; continuing from the westernmost tip of Black Island to the northern most tip of Swans Island Head; continuing to the most southeastern point of Naskeag Point, Brooklin except by draggers, divers, trappers, and rakers who possess aboard their fishing boat, a Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking unit provided by the Department. The spatial tracker must be turned on and continuously recording data for the entire duration of each season, chosen by the harvester. This limited access area will sunset April 1, 2022.

# 2022 - 2023 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 1

A Zone 1 harvester may choose to fish 15 of the open days

**O** = open

= closed

Early Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

September 2022								
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	0	0	0	0	0			
25	26	27	28	29	30			
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	October 2022								
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## Late Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

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January 2023								
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February 2023									
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**Zone 1 Season for Draggers** 

December 2022								
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January 2023									
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February 2023									
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## 2022 - 2023 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 2

A Zone 2 harvester may choose to fish 30 of the 40 open days

**O** = open

Early Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

September 2022								
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Late Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

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#### Early Season for Draggers

Late Season for Draggers

## 2022 - 2023 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 2 For Whiting & Dennys Bays Limited Access Area

O = open

= closed

September 2022									
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Early Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

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December 2022									
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 January 2023
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Early Season for Draggers

Late Season for Draggers

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February 2023										
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March 2023									
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
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October 2022									
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November 2022									
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	December 2022									
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Late Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

## 2021-2022 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 1

## A Zone 1 harvester may choose to fish 15 of the open days

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## Early Season for Divers, Rakers, and Trappers

### Late Season for Divers, Rakers and Trappers

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Zone 1 Drag	ging Season
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Strike through:

## 2021-2022 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 2

A Zone 2 harvester may choose to fish 30 of the 40 open days

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Early Season for Divers, Rakers and Trappers tobor 20

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#### Late Season for Divers, Rakers and Trappers January 2022

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#### **Early Season for Draggers**

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# -2021-2022 Sea Urchin Season for Maine Zone 2-

## For Whiting & Dennys Bays Limited Access Area

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## Early Season for Divers, Rakers and Trappers

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## Late Season for Divers, Rakers and Trappers

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### **Early Season for Draggers**

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### Late Season for Draggers

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## **Rule-Making Fact Sheet**

(5 M.R.S., §8057-A)

AGENCY: Department of Marine Resources

NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OF AGENCY CONTACT PERSON: Amanda Ellis, Department of Marine Resources, 21 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0021 Telephone: (207) 624-6573; web address: http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rulemaking/

CHAPTER NUMBER AND RULE: Chapter 26 Sea Urchin 2022-2023 Season

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 12 MRS §6749

DATE AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING(S): June 13, 2022 @ 6:00 pm, in-person at DMR HQ, Room 118 Marquardt Building, and remotely via Microsoft Teams.

COMMENT DEADLINE: June 24, 2022

PRINCIPAL REASON(S) OR PURPOSE FOR PROPOSING THIS RULE: [see §8057-A(1)(A)&(C)]

This regulation would establish open harvest days and tote limits for the taking of sea urchins by divers, rakers, trappers, and draggers in Zones 1 and 2 for the 2022-2023 season. For Zone 1, seasons are proposed for divers, trappers, rakers and draggers in 2022-2023, from which harvesters may only fish up to 15 days of their choosing, the same number of days allowed during the 2021-2022 season. For Zone 1, the daily tote limit is nine (9), the same as in the 2021-2022 season. For Zone 2, 40-day seasons are proposed for divers, trappers, rakers and draggers in 2022-2023, from which harvesters may only fish up to 30 days of their choosing. This proposal has the same number of fishing days and opportunity days as the 2021-2022 season. For the Whiting & Dennys Bays Limited Access Area in Zone 2, a 15-day season is proposed for Zone 2 divers, trappers, rakers and draggers in 2022-2023. For Zone 2, the daily tote limit is six (6), the same as in the 2021-2022 season.

The Blue Hill Bay Limited Access Area designation sunset on April 1, 2022 and that language has been removed from the regulation.

IS MATERIAL INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THE RULE? YES X NO [§8056(1)(B)]

ANALYSIS AND EXPECTED OPERATION OF THE RULE: [*see* §8057-A(1)(B)&(D)] This proposed rule seeks to conserve the sea urchin resource for utilization in the future; if it is successful in doing so it will have a positive impact on small business (sea urchin harvesters and sea urchin

processors) in the long term.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF RELEVANT INFORMATION CONSIDERED DURING DEVELOPMENT OF THE RULE (including up to 3 primary sources relied upon) [see §§8057-A(1)(E) & 8063-B]: The Department considered feedback provided by the Sea Urchin Zone Council, Department staff and Maine Marine Patrol.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT OF THE RULE: [see §8057-A(1)(C)]

Enforcement of these proposed amendments will not require additional activity in this agency. Existing enforcement personnel will monitor compliance during their routine patrols.

FOR EXISTING RULES WITH FISCAL IMPACT OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE, ALSO INCLUDE:

*ECONOMIC IMPACT, WHETHER OR NOT QUANTIFIABLE IN MONETARY TERMS:* [see §8057-A(2)(A)]

INDIVIDUALS, MAJOR INTEREST GROUPS AND TYPES OF BUSINESSES AFFECTED AND HOW THEY WILL BE AFFECTED: [see §8057-A(2)(B)]

BENEFITS OF THE RULE: [see §8057-A(2)(C)]

Note: If necessary, additional pages may be used.

## **Basis Statement**

This regulation establishes open harvest days and tote limits for the taking of sea urchins by divers, rakers, trappers, and draggers in Zones 1 and 2 for the 2022-2023 season. For Zone 1, seasons are implemented for divers, trappers, rakers and draggers in 2022-2023, from which harvesters may only fish up to 15 days of their choosing, the same number of days allowed during the 2021-2022 season. For Zone 1, the daily tote limit is nine (9), the same as in the 2021-2022 season. For Zone 2, 40-day seasons are implemented for divers, trappers, rakers and draggers in 2022-2023, from which harvesters may only fish up to 30 days of their choosing. This regulation has the same number of fishing days and opportunity days as the 2021-2022 season. For the Whiting & Dennys Bays Limited Access Area in Zone 2, a 15-day season is implemented for Zone 2 divers, trappers, rakers and draggers in 2022-2023. For Zone 2, the daily tote limit is six (6), the same as in the 2021-2022 season.

The Blue Hill Bay Limited Access Area designation sunset on April 1, 2022 and that language has been removed from the regulation.

## **Summary of Comments**

Notice of the proposed rulemaking appeared on May 25, 2022 in the five major daily newspapers as published by the Secretary of State. On May 24, 2022, the rule was posted on the DMR website, and on May 25, 2022 electronic messages were sent to individuals who subscribe to DMR notices. A remote public hearing was held on June 13, 2022. One individual attended the remote public hearing but did not wish to offer a comment. The comment period closed June 24, 2022. DMR received one written comment on the proposal.

Name	Affiliation
Melissa Smith, Maggie Hunter, Deirdre	DMR Staff
Gilbert, and Amanda Ellis	
Joe Leask	Member of the Public

Attendance at the June 13, 2022 Hearing:

Written Comment Received:

## Tim Peterson, received via email, May 26, 2022

I like the proposed rules as written.