

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 1435**

An Act To Amend Certain Provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Laws

SPONSORED BY: Representative SHAW of Standish

CO-SPONSORED BY: Senator HASKELL of Cumberland
Representative BRIGGS of Mexico
Representative ESPLING of New Gloucester
Representative KUSIAK of Fairfield
Senator DUTREMBLE of York

DATE OF HEARING: May 7, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Andrea Erskine, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking in support of **L.D. 1435**.

This bill encompasses several changes or clarifications within Title 12 that members of the Department recognized as necessary changes and are presenting as one bill. The following list summarizes the recommended changes:

- 1.** It allows the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, after consultation with the Governor and the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council, to terminate any open season for hunting, fishing or trapping in any part of the State due to adverse weather conditions or unlawful activity. Once the reason for the termination has passed, the commissioner, with the consent of the Governor, may extend the open season in the affected part of the State for a number of days not to exceed the number of days hunting, fishing or trapping was prohibited.
- 2.** It allows the commissioner, in addition to current authorization to issue 2 moose permits to a nonprofit organization providing hunting and fishing adventures to children under 21 years of age, to issue, in extenuating circumstances, 2 other permits or licenses for other fishing or hunting adventures.

- 3.** It removes the requirement that the commissioner or the commissioner's designee meet with an applicant with a permanent physical disability seeking special authorization to hunt, trap or fish in a manner not otherwise authorized.
- 4.** It allows a resident or member of the resident's family to trap beaver on land that is owned and occupied by the resident as a domicile and that is used exclusively for agricultural purposes.
- 5.** It provides for the registration of antique motorboats, which are boats that are more than 50 years old.
- 6.** It allows a resident who is in the military stationed outside of the State to get a trapping license for the cost of the license to the department and allows the spouse and children of that resident in the military to get a reduced-fee trapping license.
- 7.** This section establishes a quorum and attendance requirements for the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council.
- 8.** It clarifies that a person can forgo a hunter education safety course by showing proof that the person has previously held a valid adult license for the license being sought.

Since this bill was printed, several items have been identified as needing correction or legislative action. We will prepare an amendment to be presented at the work session, pertaining to the following subjects:

1. An amendment to Major Gregory Sanborn by naming a Wildlife Management Area after him (Brownfield Bog).
2. An amendment to charge a \$1 fee to issue a temporary snowmobile registration for a snowmobile to operate for 30 consecutive days after the date of the sale (currently this is in rule but we would like to put it into statute to be consistent with watercraft and ATV temporary registration laws).
3. An amendment to include a commercial boat operator's license as part of a guide's license when a person acquires a guide's license.
4. An amendment to address certain department programs giving gifts such as fishing licenses, fishing tackle, equipment and department memorabilia to persons or entities.

We will be prepared for more detailed discussions at the work session.