



132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2026

Legislative Document

No. 2013

H.P. 1343

House of Representatives, December 5, 2025

**An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to
Adopt Emergency Rules to Protect Certain Marine Mammals in
Exceptional Circumstances**

Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 3, 2025. Referred to the Committee on Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6171, sub-§6 is enacted to read:

6. Emergency rules to limit taking of marine organisms. Notwithstanding subsections 3 and 5, the commissioner may adopt routine technical rules as emergency rules under Title 5, section 8054 that limit the taking of marine organisms by method or location to protect marine mammals listed under section 6975 when the commissioner determines that immediate action is necessary to mitigate circumstances posing an exceptionally high level of risk to those mammals.

Sec. 2. Report on use of emergency rule-making authority. The Department of Marine Resources shall, no later than December 1, 2027, submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters regarding any uses of the emergency rule-making authority established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 6171, subsection 6. The report must include any findings and recommendations derived from the department's experience in using that authority. The joint standing committee may report out a bill based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 133rd Legislature.

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Marine Resources to adopt emergency rules under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8054 to limit the taking of marine organisms by method or location to protect certain marine mammals when the commissioner determines that immediate action is necessary to mitigate circumstances posing an exceptionally high level of risk to those mammals. The bill also requires the Department of Marine Resources to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters no later than December 1, 2027 that includes information and findings and recommendations related to any uses of the emergency rule-making authority authorized by this legislation.