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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 342, L.D. 537, “An Act to Remove the Limits on Bass Fishing in Washington County Rivers”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Establish a Stakeholder Group to Study the Effects of a Reduced Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass Bag Limit in the Rivers of Washington County on the Atlantic Salmon Population in Maine'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 1. Review. Resolved:** That the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, referred to in this resolve as "the department," shall establish a stakeholder group to examine the effects of a reduced largemouth bass and smallmouth bass bag limit in the rivers of Washington County on the Atlantic salmon population in this State.

**Sec. 2. Stakeholder group. Resolved:** That the department shall ensure that the stakeholder group established under section 1 is as broadly representative of interested parties and groups as possible and shall invite participation from at least the following: the Department of Marine Resources and governmental and nongovernmental organizations related to fisheries and Atlantic salmon in this State.

**Sec. 3. Report. Resolved:** That the department shall report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group established under section 1 to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife no later than February 1, 2024. The committee may report out a bill related to the effects of a reduced largemouth bass and smallmouth bass bag limit in the rivers of Washington County on the Atlantic salmon population in this State to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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**SUMMARY**

This amendment is the minority report of the committee. The amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that does the following.

1. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to form a stakeholder group to study the effects of a reduced largemouth bass and smallmouth bass bag limit in the rivers of Washington County on the Atlantic salmon population in Maine.

2. It requires the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to invite the participation in the stakeholder group of the Department of Marine Resources and organizations related to fisheries and Atlantic salmon in Maine.

3. It directs the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to report the findings and recommendations of the stakeholder group to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife by February 1, 2024. The committee is authorized to report out a bill related to the effects of a reduced largemouth bass and smallmouth bass bag limit to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**