

APPROVED  
MARCH 25, 2019  
BY GOVERNOR

CHAPTER  
9  
PUBLIC LAW

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

H.P. 941 - L.D. 1298

An Act To Enhance Fish and Wildlife Laws

**Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

**Whereas,** the open-water fishing season is scheduled to begin April 1, 2019 and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife intends to conduct emergency rulemaking this year regarding that date; and

**Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12456, sub-§2, ¶E,** as enacted by PL 2013, c. 3, §2, is amended to read:

E. In accordance with section 10104, the commissioner may change the established opening date of an ~~open~~ open-water recreational fishing season and may change the established closing date of a recreational ice-fishing season if, in the commissioner's opinion, the change is necessary warranted due to ~~earlier-than-normal seasonal temperature changes or~~ weather conditions.

**Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §12456, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 2003, c. 655, Pt. B, §244 and affected by §422, is amended to read:

**3. Rules.** Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A and may be adopted by emergency rulemaking pursuant to Title 5, section 8054.

**Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.