



General Assembly

February Session, 2022

Raised Bill No. 5141

LCO No. 1138



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:
(ENV)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FISH SPECIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (g) of section 26-142a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
3 *1, 2022*):

4 (g) The commissioner may determine for all waters of the state,
5 including the inland and marine districts, areas within which
6 commercial fishing gear may be set or used, the specifications and
7 dimensions of such commercial fishing gear, including materials,
8 length, depth, width, and size of mesh, the length of set lines or long
9 lines, the number and size of hooks, and, for all commercial fishing and
10 landing activities by persons issued either a commercial fishing vessel
11 permit or a license by the commissioner, regardless where such
12 activities take place, the species which may be taken, possessed or
13 landed, the limits on at-sea fish processing related to preserving species
14 identification and prevention of wasteful harvesting practices, the
15 seasons in which species may be taken, possessed or landed, the number

16 and size of regulated species which may be taken, possessed or landed
17 and the rules regulating the use of commercial fishing gear, including
18 hours or days of use, and the number of endorsements, licenses, permits
19 or registrations which may be issued. In managing the number of
20 limited access licenses issued, the commissioner may consider an
21 applicant's recent fishing activity authorized under this section, use
22 random draw, lease not more than twenty per cent of the available
23 harvest of any quota-managed species, or use other methods for
24 managing the number of fishery participants. The commissioner may
25 also order the emergency closure of any fishery if such closure is
26 necessary to conform to regulations adopted under the Fishery
27 Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-265, as
28 amended) or by other regional fisheries management authorities.
29 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, no person shall take,
30 land or possess two hundred pounds or more of any of the following
31 bait species: (1) Tidewater silverside, (2) Atlantic silverside, (3) sand
32 lance or sand eels, or (4) bay anchovy.

33 Sec. 2. Section 26-45 of the general statutes is repealed and the
34 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

35 No person shall possess for the purpose of sale, sell or offer for sale
36 any bait species without first obtaining a bait dealer's license from the
37 commissioner, provided the provisions of this section shall not apply to
38 persons issued a commercial hatchery license under section 26-149.
39 Application forms for such license shall be furnished by the
40 commissioner. Such license shall be nontransferable. The fee for each
41 such license shall be sixty-three dollars annually. Each such license shall
42 expire on the last day of December next after issuance. Each such
43 licensed bait dealer may possess and sell only such bait species as shall
44 be authorized under regulations issued by the commissioner, provided
45 live carp and goldfish shall not be possessed for any purpose on
46 premises used by licensed bait dealers and not more than two hundred
47 pounds of any of the following bait species shall be possessed or offered
48 for sale by a licensed bait dealer: (1) Tidewater silverside, (2) Atlantic
49 silverside, (3) sand lance or sand eels, or (4) bay anchovy. Each such

50 licensee shall keep such records relating to the operation of such
51 business as the commissioner determines on forms furnished by the
52 commissioner and shall file such report with the commissioner within
53 thirty days after the expiration of such license. No such report shall
54 contain any material false statement. Failure to file such report shall be
55 a violation of this section and the commissioner may refuse to reissue
56 such license until the licensee complies with this requirement.
57 Representatives of the commissioner may enter upon the premises of
58 bait dealers at any time to inspect required records and the bait species
59 possessed and to detect violations of this section and regulations issued
60 hereunder by the commissioner, and such representatives may
61 confiscate and dispose of any fish illegally possessed. Any person who
62 violates any provision of this section or any such regulation issued by
63 the commissioner shall be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	26-142a(g)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2022</i>	26-45

Statement of Purpose:

To provide protection to the populations of certain forage fish species.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]