

HB 1833-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-2886

08/06

HOUSE BILL ***1833-FN***

AN ACT creating a special license for non-resident vessel operators participating in tuna tournaments.

SPONSORS: Rep. Bridle, Rock. 29; Rep. Bernardy, Rock. 36; Rep. McGrath, Rock. 40; Rep. Porcelli, Rock. 19; Rep. Sabourin dit Choiniere, Rock. 30

COMMITTEE: Fish and Game and Marine Resources

ANALYSIS

This bill creates a special license for non-resident vessel operators participating in tuna tournaments.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT creating a special license for non-resident vessel operators participating in tuna tournaments.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Section; Nonresident Special Tuna License. Amend RSA 211 by inserting after section
2 49-e the following new section:

3 211:49-f Nonresident Special Tuna License.

4 I. Any person who does not qualify as a resident under RSA 207:1, who takes, possesses,
5 lands, or transports, as part of a tuna tournament, from or on the waters of this state, regardless of
6 where the catch was taken, any tuna species by any method for the purpose of selling the same, shall
7 first procure a valid license from the executive director to do so. A special tuna license shall be
8 issued to a nonresident operator of the vessel who is a registered participant in a tuna tournament
9 that is sponsored and operated by a nonprofit association that has existed for at least one year prior
10 to the tournament. An individual shall not be issued more than one license per one eligible tuna
11 tournament in any one calendar year. This license shall only be valid for 10 days from the starting
12 date of the eligible tuna tournament. No other marine species may be taken, possessed, landed, or
13 transported for the purpose of sale under this license.

14 II. The fee for an annual license shall be set by the executive director pursuant to RSA
15 206:10, I. The executive director shall establish a surcharge on each license issued under this
16 section of \$15 to be deposited in the derelict fishing gear and coastal cleanup fund established in
17 RSA 211:77 and shall adopt rules under RSA 541-A for implementing and collecting the surcharge.
18 Any person who satisfactorily demonstrates to the executive director that he or she is participating
19 in a coastal cleanup program shall not be required to pay the surcharge. The executive director shall
20 adopt rules pursuant to RSA 541-A to determine what constitutes satisfactory participation in a
21 coastal cleanup program and to account for licensees who are exempt from the surcharge each year.

22 III. Licensees shall be responsible for conducting their fishing activities in compliance with
23 rules adopted by the executive director under RSA 541-A.

24 IV. Any person so licensed shall furnish to the executive director such information
25 concerning marine species and fishing activities as the executive director may require by rules
26 adopted under RSA 541-A.

27 V. Any person convicted of violating any provision of this section shall be guilty of a violation
28 if a natural person or guilty of a misdemeanor if any other person. In addition, the defendant's catch
29 shall be confiscated and sold according to rules adopted by the executive director pursuant to RSA

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1 541-A, the proceeds of such sale shall become the property of the New Hampshire fish and game
2 department.

3 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

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Revised 1/12/26

HB 1833-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT creating a special license for non-resident vessel operators participating in tuna tournaments.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Legislative Budget Assistant has determined that this legislation has a total fiscal impact of less than \$10,000 in each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Fish and Game Department