

Joint Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries

Bill Summary

Bill Number:	H.1059
Title:	An Act relative to fisheries conservation gear grant program
Sponsor:	Representative Turco of Winthrop
Cosponsors:	None
Hearing Date:	Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 10:00 PM - 01:00 PM, B-1
Reporting Date:	Saturday, November 15th, 2025
Similar Matters:	None

Prior History:

2023-2024: Filed as H.773; Referred to the Joint Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources; Discharged to the Joint Committee on Agriculture; Accompanied a new draft H.4227; Reported favorably to the House Committee on Ways and Means where no further action was taken.

2021-2022: Filed as H.873; Referred to the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture; Accompanied a new draft H.4594; Reported favorably to the House Committee on Ways and Means where no further action was taken.

Current Law

None

Summary

This bill establishes the Fisheries Conservation Gear Grant Program which would provide funding for the research, development, and procurement of commercial fishing gear that limits the harm or mortality of endangered species such as the Northern Right Whale. The program will be administered by the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) who will hold annual hearings to report on the progress, updates, and effectiveness of the program. This bill requires beneficiaries of grants to be domiciled in Massachusetts and have a valid commercial fishing license. DMF may retain the intellectual property of inventions developed through this program.