

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Definition of Trolling

FACTS:

The 101st Legislature authorized the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Game to issue a regulation restricting fishing in Howard Pond "to fly fishing and trolling only." Resolves 1963, ch. 62. The Commissioner has issued such a regulation.

QUESTION:

Does the word "trolling" mean from a boat only?

ANSWER:

No.

OPINION:

There is no statute defining the word "trolling." There are no cases in the state defining the word.

The New Standard Dictionary, 1941 Edition, defines trolling in the following language:

"The method or act of fishing by dragging a hook and line, as behind a boat, keeping it near the surface; spinning; usually implying the use of spoon-bait or some form of spinning-tackle, with or without the addition of a live lure, as a minnow or frog."

Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition 1941, defines "trolling" as:

"An act of one who trolls; specif., fishing with a troll."

It then defines a "troll" as:

- "3. A reel used on a fishing rod. Now rare.
- "4. The lure, as a spoon, used in trolling; also the line with its lure and hook, used in trolling."

The verb "troll" is defined as:

- "5. To angle for with a trolling line, or with a hook drawn along the water; hence, to allure, entice."

Intransitive:

- "4. To fish, esp. by drawing the hook along or through the water, as with a long line behind a moving boat."

From these foregoing definitions the act of trolling is not necessarily required to be done from a boat, whether moving or stationary. It may be done from the shore, a bridge, a dam or any other place from which a line may be drawn or dragged through the water.

See Resolves 1957, ch. 59, re use of live bait.

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