

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1973

S. P. 638

In Senate, May 24, 1973

Reported by the Majority from Committee on Marine Resources and printed under Joint Rules No. 18.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT to Improve the Lobster Fisheries.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 12, § 4404, sub-§ 4-A, additional. Section 4404 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by section 2 of chapter 67 of the public laws of 1967, is further amended by adding a new subsection 4 to read as follows:

4-A. Vessel designation. An applicant for a lobster and crab fishing license shall designate on his application the number assigned by the Bureau of Watercraft Registration and Safety to the vessel on board which he intends to exercise the privilege conferred by such license. The commissioner shall enter such number so designated by the applicant on the license when issued. The commissioner shall not issue a lobster and crab fishing license to any applicant, if such applicant has designated in his application the number of a vessel which has already been entered on another license.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 12, § 4404, sub-§ 5, amended. Subsection 5 of section 4404 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

5. License fee. The fee for a lobster and crab fishing license is ~~\$70~~ \$100 which the applicant shall enclose with his application.

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 12, § 4404, sub-§ 6, amended. The first paragraph of subsection 6 of section 4404 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

The license fees for lobster and crab fishing licenses shall be allocated to the Lobster Fund, as heretofore established.

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 12, § 4404, sub-§ 6, ¶ A, amended. Paragraph A of subsection 6 of section 4404 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

A. The commissioner may expend any and all of the money in the Lobster Fund from time to time for the purpose of propagation of lobsters, for **research, protection and management of the lobster fisheries** and for purchasing seed lobsters from Maine lobster pounds and female lobsters from Maine wholesale lobster dealers and liberating said lobsters in Maine coastal waters.

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 12, § 4453-A, additional. Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 4453-A to read as follows:

§ 4453-A. Limitation

On and after January 1, 1974 it shall be unlawful for any person holding a lobster and crab fishing license to fish more than 600 lobster traps or pots.

Sec. 6. R. S., T. 12, § 4453-B, additional. Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 4453-B to read as follows:

§ 4453-B. Marking of lobster traps

It is unlawful for any person to set, raise or haul any pot or trap for any lobster or crab, or to cause the same to be done without having the buoy attached thereto plainly carved or branded with his lobster and crab fishing license number, and unless there is attached to the sill of the trap a metal tag containing the individual's lobster fishing license number and the current license year of issue plainly embossed thereon. Said lobster trap tags shall be issued by the commissioner, or his representative, with the individual's lobster fishing license when application for license is made.

Sec. 7. R. S., T. 12, § 4467, additional. Title 12 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 4467 to read as follows:

§ 4467. Vessel limitations

No person shall fish for lobsters and crabs from any vessel other than the vessel whose number, assigned by the Bureau of Watercraft Registration and Safety, appears on his lobster and crab fishing license.