

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2325

H. P. 1834

House of Representatives, January 9, 1974

Referred to the Committee on Marine Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Greenlaw of Stonington.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FOUR

AN ACT Relating to the V-notching of Lobsters.

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

R. S., T. 12, § 4401, sub-§ 4, repealed and replaced. Subsection 4 of section 4401 of Title 12 of the Revised Statutes, as amended by sections 10 and 11 of chapter 337 of the public laws of 1967, and as amended by section 1 of chapter 180 of the public laws of 1973, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

4. V-notching and liberation of egg-bearing lobsters; possession of V-notched and mutilated lobsters unlawful. A holder of a lobster and crab fishing license shall immediately cause egg-bearing lobsters or V-notched female lobsters to be liberated in the coastal waters where trapped.

A. The holder of a lobster and crab fishing license shall cause such egg-bearing lobsters, before being liberated to be marked by cutting a V-notch in the exterior end of the middle flipper of its tail. It shall be unlawful to V-notch any other lobsters not specified in this subsection.

B. It is unlawful for any person to have in his possession any female lobsters marked with a V-notch in the middle flipper of its tail or which is mutilated in such a manner to hide or obliterate such mark.

(1) If any person catching any female lobster so marked or mutilated immediately after catching it returns it alive to the waters from which it was taken, he is excused from the illegal possession of that lobster.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill changes the method of V-notching from the side flippers back to the middle flipper. Massachusetts completely repealed their V-notching procedure during the summer of 1973. New Hampshire V-notches their egg-bearing lobsters in the middle flipper. The intent of this bill is to resolve the existing confusion which has resulted by V-notching the side flippers and to have Maine's law conform with the existing V-notching procedure in New Hampshire.