

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (Filing No. H-540)
108TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 944, L.D. 1139,
Bill, "AN ACT to Allow Escape of Sublegal Lobsters from Lobster
or Crab Traps."

Amend the Bill by striking out everything after the
enacting clause and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §4468 is enacted to read:

§4468. Escape vents on lobster or crab traps

1. Vent required. It is unlawful to fish for or take
lobsters by use of a lobster or crab trap unless the trap is
equipped with:

A. A rectangular or oblong escape vent not less than
1 3/4 inches (44.5 mm) by 6 inches (152.5 mm);

B. Two circular escape vents not less than 2 1/4 inches
(57.2 mm) in diameter,

C. A gap caused by raising both ends of a bottom lath
in the parlor section by 1 3/4 inches,

D. A gap caused by separating both ends of 2 vertical
laths on the end of the parlor section by 1 3/4 inches; or

E. A gap created by cutting wires in a wire trap in such
a manner as to meet the minimum size and number of vents
required under paragraphs A or B,

that will allow sublegal lobsters to escape. The escape vents
or gaps shall be installed or made in the parlor section of

the trap on the side or end next to the sill, or with the vertical gap, in the end of the parlor section.

2. Actions prohibited. It is unlawful to set, raise, haul or transfer any lobster or crab trap unless the trap is equipped with an escape vent as required in this section.

Sec. 2. Effective date and termination. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 1979 and shall continue in effect until December 31, 1980.

Sec. 3. Department research. During 1977 the Department of Marine Resources shall undertake to research the potential effect of this Act on the lobster fishery. Included in such research shall be "double-parlor" experiments to determine the size and number of lobsters that may escape through the required vents.

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to clarify the bill, to add provisions for vertical escape gaps in the end of the parlor or for a gap created by cutting the wire of wire traps, to provide a "sunset" provision to terminate the Act after 2 years and to require that certain critical research be done this year.

Reported by the Committee on Marine Resources.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

6/8/77

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