

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 647

H. P. 525

House of Representatives, February 20, 1979

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Jackson of Yarmouth.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-NINE

AN ACT to Require a Degradable Section in all Lobster Traps.

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

12 MRSA § 6433-A is enacted to read:

§ 6433-A. Degradable sections

1. **Actions prohibited.** It shall be unlawful to set, raise, haul or transfer any lobster trap unless that trap is equipped with a degradable section.

2. **Degradable section.** All lobster traps shall meet one of the following requirements for a degradable section:

A. The trap shall be constucted of wood; or

B. The trap shall contain at least one part of the parlor section of the trap that is degradable and will provide an opening of either 3 inches by 6 inches or 4 inches by 4 inches.

3. **Degradable standards.** The commissioner shall by regulation establish the materials or combinations of materials that may be used to make the degradable section. The permitted materials or combinations shall be only those that will disintegrate or decompose by chemical, biological or physical action under normal conditions in the sea within 6 months.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill requires all lobster traps to have a section that will disintegrate or decompose in the sea. This bill is necessary because of the increasing use of metal wire or plastic traps that continue to fish after they have been lost. These "ghost traps" present a serious threat to the lobster fishery.