

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 843

7 H.P. 572

House of Representatives, February 28, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Fisheries and Wildlife suggested. On
9 Motion of Representative Jacques of Waterville, referred to the Committee on
10 Marine Resources. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Carter of Winslow.

11 Cosponsored by Representative Crowley of Stockton Springs and
Representative Vose of Eastport.

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT Concerning Striped Bass.
18

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

21 12 MRSA §6555, as repealed and replaced by PL
22 1983, c. 250, is amended to read:

23 §6555. Striped bass; method of taking

24 It shall be unlawful to fish for or take striped
25 bass in the coastal waters, except by hook and line
26 or, between sunrise and sunset, by use of a spear.

27 It shall be unlawful to take or possess striped
28 bass which are less than ~~16~~ 24 inches fork length.

29 No more than 4 striped bass less than 24 inches
30 fork length may be taken in any one day.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

2 The Chesapeake Bay striped bass resource has un-
3 dergone a dramatic decline in abundance since the
4 mid-1970's. Young-of-the-year indexes in Maryland
5 waters have ranged from a high of 30.4 in 1970 to a
6 low of 1.2 in 1981. The average young-of-the-year
7 index for the period 1980 to 1984 was 3.2 which is
8 well below the average index, 8.0, required to main-
9 tain a healthy population. Due to the depressed con-
10 dition of the resource, Maryland has declared a total
11 moratorium on the sport and commercial harvest of
12 striped bass in Maryland waters effective January 1,
13 1985. In order to assist in rebuilding these stocks,
14 the Interstate Striped Bass Management Board of At-
15 lantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has recom-
16 mended further restrictive measures by participating
17 Atlantic Coast states. The major recommendation for
18 action by nonproducing states was to increase the
19 minimum size to protect immature striped bass until
20 they attain spawning size. This bill provides in-
21 creased striped bass protection and brings Maine into
22 conformity with minimum sizes in effect in Massachu-
23 setts, Connecticut and the ocean waters of New York,
24 New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virgin-
25 ia and North Carolina.

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