

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1
2 FIRST REGULAR SESSION

3 ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

NO. 18

7 H.P. 19 House of Representatives, January 15, 1987
8 Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested
9 and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

10 Presented by Representative Rice of Stonington.

Cosponsored by Representative Salsbury of Bar Harbor.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

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

17 AN ACT to Restrict the Use of Paravanes.
18

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

21 12 MRSA §6434, as enacted by PL 1977, c. 561, §5,
22 is amended to read:

23 §6434. Molesting gear

24 It shall be is unlawful for any person, except a
25 coastal warden, the licensed owner or a person having
26 written permission from the licensed owner, to raise,
27 lift, transfer, possess or in any manner molest any
28 lobster trap, warp, buoy or car. It is unlawful for
29 any person to operate a vessel in waters of the State
30 with stabilizing devices commonly known as
31 "paravanes" or "flopper stoppers" that extend beyond
32 the hull of any fishing vessel in a manner capable of

1 contacting the surface of the water, permitting the
2 device to become entangled in lobster buoys and gear,
3 except that nothing in this section may limit the use
4 of those devices while the vessel is in the actual
5 act of fishing. For the purposes of this section,
6 the act of fishing is the actual act of towing fish-
7 ing gear, hauling fishing gear or setting out fishing
8 gear for either commercial or pleasure fishing.

9 STATEMENT OF FACT

10 The use of stabilizing devices commonly known as
11 "paravanes" or "flopper stoppers" have been the
12 source of substantial loss of lobster buoys, lines
13 and traps as a result of the lobster gear becoming
14 entangled in the extended paravanes while the vessels
15 are operating at speeds above the normal speed in-
16 volved in towing or hauling operations. The exten-
17 sion of the paravanes, while operating at cruising
18 speeds, creates an unreasonable hazard for lobster
19 gear, and other floating objects.

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