

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 40

H.P. 37 House of Representatives, January 22, 1987
Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested
and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk
Presented by Representative Jacques of Waterville.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Authorizing the Use of Gill Nets by
Agents of the State for Scientific
Purposes.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7621, as amended by PL 1979, c.
723, §33, is further amended to read:

§7621. Use or possession of gill net

A person, including any agent of the State, is
guilty of use or possession of a gill net if he uses
or possesses a gill net.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7630, sub-§5 is enacted to
read:

1 5. Section 7621. Notwithstanding section 7621,
2 agents of the State may use gill nets to take fish
3 from inland waters for scientific purposes. The com-
4 missioner shall adopt a written policy establishing
5 procedures to control the use of gill nets by agents
6 of the State. This policy shall be reviewed by the
7 joint standing committee of the Legislature having
8 jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife.

9

STATEMENT OF FACT

10 This bill provides for the use of gill nets by
11 agents of the State in carrying out their official
12 duties. The use of gill nets in the State's inland
13 waters by members of the general public has been un-
14 lawful for many years. State fishery biologists were
15 allowed to utilize gill nets for scientific purposes
16 up until 1980 when the Legislature took away this au-
17 thority.

18 Since 1980, fishery biologists have been unable
19 to effectively evaluate the results of stocking pro-
20 grams, to complete biological inventories of inland
21 waters or to make conclusive assessments of the im-
22 pact of environmental problems. Agents of the State
23 need the authority to use gill nets in order to ef-
24 fectively respond to the tremendous increase in fish-
25 ing pressure on the State's lakes and ponds and to
26 provide information which is critical to the State's
27 water quality improvement efforts.

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