

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(EMERGENCY)  
(NEW DRAFT OF H.P. 1487, L.D. 2021)  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2206

H.P. 1613 House of Representatives, February 8, 1988  
Reported by Representative SALSBURY from the Committee on  
Marine Resources and printed under Joint Rule 2.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Original bill sponsored by Representative SALSBURY of Bar  
Harbor.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Postpone the Effective Date for the  
Use of Biodegradable Escape Panels on  
Lobster Traps.

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Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the  
Legislature do not become effective until 90 days  
after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Commissioner of Marine Resources has  
adopted a rule requiring biodegradable escape panels

1 on all lobster traps by January 1, 1988; and

2 Whereas, there is considerable confusion among  
3 lobster fishermen regarding the escape panel  
4 requirement, as well as other impending changes in the  
5 regulation of lobster fishing; and

6 Whereas, it is advisable to avoid confusion and to  
7 clarify the legal requirements relating to lobster  
8 fishing; and

9 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these  
10 facts create an emergency within the meaning of the  
11 Constitution of Maine and require the following  
12 legislation as immediately necessary for the  
13 preservation of the public peace, health and safety;  
14 now, therefore,

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

17 12 MRSA §6433-A is enacted to read:

18 §6433-A. Biodegradable escape panels

19 Beginning January 1, 1990, all lobster traps must  
20 be equipped with a biodegradable ghost panel. A  
21 "ghost panel" is an escape panel which is designed to  
22 release lobsters from traps which are lost while  
23 fishing. The commissioner shall, by rule, provide for  
24 implementation of this requirement. The commissioner  
25 may not require ghost panels prior to January 1, 1990.

26 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency  
27 cited in the preamble, this Act shall take effect when  
28 approved.

29 STATEMENT OF FACT

30 This new draft requires the use of biodegradable  
31 "ghost panels" on lobster traps beginning on, but not  
32 before, January 1, 1990.

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