

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2393

S.P. 917

In Senate, March 1, 1988

Approved for Introduction by a Majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Reference to the Committee on Marine Resources suggested and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN, Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TUTTLE of York.

Cosponsored by Representative WENTWORTH of Wells,
Representative MITCHELL of Freeport.

STATE OF MAINE

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

1 **AN ACT to Prohibit the Use of Airplanes or**
2 **Aerial Surveillance in the Taking of**
3 **Any Tuna.**
4

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

7 12 MRSA §6551, as enacted by PL 1977, c 661 §5,
8 is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

1 §6551. Tuna

2 1. Method of taking. It is unlawful to fish for
3 or take any tuna by any method other than harpoons or
4 by hook and line or to possess any tuna which was
5 taken in an unlawful manner.

6 2. Use of aircraft. It is unlawful to fish for
7 or lead to the taking of any tuna by any method of
8 aerial detection or surveillance using an aircraft.
9 Possession of tuna in violation of this subsection
10 shall be subject to a \$10,000 fine to be imposed by
11 the court for each violation.

12 STATEMENT OF FACT

13 The purpose of this bill is to ban the use of
14 spotter planes by harpoon boats in bluefin tuna
15 fishing. Spotter aircraft give an unfair advantage to
16 out-of-state tuna fisherman as all but one of the
17 boats using aircraft to spot tuna are based outside
18 the State. This bill is necessary to protect the
19 fishing and the fisherman who historically have
20 spotted tuna from their boats.

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