

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 424

S.P. 133

In Senate, February 9, 1993

**An Act to Establish Scallop Drag Sizes for Waters within the 3-mile
Limit.**

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VOSE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representatives: FARREN of Cherryfield, LOOK of Jonesboro, TOWNSEND
of Eastport.

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

2
4 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6001, sub-§5-A and 37-B are enacted to read:

6 5-A. Chain sweep drag. "Chain sweep drag" means a drag
8 with a heavy chain bag attached to 3 sides of its mouth and 3
10 chains attached to the other side of its mouth to sweep material
12 into the bag.

14 37-B. Rock drag. "Rock drag" means a drag with a heavy
16 chain bag attached to all 4 sides of its mouth. Rock drags are
18 often used in tandem.

20 Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6726 is enacted to read:

22 §6726. Drag size restrictions

24 In addition to any restrictions in section 6723, the size of
26 a rock drag is limited to a 6-foot bar and a chain sweep drag is
28 limited to a 5 1/2-foot bar in coastal waters designated by rule
30 of the commissioner. For purposes of this section, the total
32 measurement of a bar is calculated by adding together the width
34 of all drag bars used by a boat at one time. Boats fishing for
36 shellfish in these areas may not have a drag bar aboard larger
38 than those specified in this section.

40 Sec. 3. Designated areas. Within 6 months of the effective date
42 of this Act, the Commissioner of Marine Resources shall
promulgate rules to designate specific areas where the size of
rock drags and chain sweep drags is limited. The commissioner
shall consider the potential for gear conflicts and ensuring the
continued productivity of the ocean floor in designating these
areas.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill sets a size limit on certain drags used in the
State's coastal waters. The Commissioner of Marine Resources is
charged with identifying vulnerable areas and areas where the
potential for gear conflicts is high.