

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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R.O.S.

L.D. 1918

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**MARINE RESOURCES**

Reported by: MAJORITY

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**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
116TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 710, L.D. 1918, Bill, "An Act to Prohibit the Use of Gill Nets in the Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers"

Amend the bill in section 1 in that part designated "~~§6553-B.~~" by inserting at the end a new paragraph to read:

'This section is repealed on July 1, 1996.'

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 1 the following:

**'Sec. 2. Monitoring and report.** To the extent that resources are available, the Department of Marine Resources shall cooperate with anglers and recreational fishing groups utilizing the tidal waters of the Kennebec River and Androscoggin River for striped bass fishing to develop a voluntary program to record the catches of striped bass in those waters during the 2 years they are closed to gill netting. The voluntary program may also utilize "catch and release" sampling methods to assist with any efforts to determine the striped bass population in those waters. The Commissioner of Marine Resources and those persons involved in the data collection efforts may report their results to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resource matters at the conclusion of their monitoring efforts.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the statement of fact the following:

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

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**FISCAL NOTE**

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This bill establishes a new Class D crime. Sentences imposed for Class D offenses must be served in a county jail. The average cost per sentence for a Class D crime is \$8,320 based upon an average length of stay of 119 days. The additional costs to the counties for the housing of each offender sentenced under this new crime are not reimbursed by the State.

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The Judicial Department may require additional General Fund appropriations to cover indigent defense costs related to these new cases. The amounts can not be estimated at this time. The additional workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department's administrative account. The collection of additional fines may also increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

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The additional enforcement costs can be absorbed by the Department of Marine Resources utilizing existing budgeted resources.

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The Department of Marine Resources may incur some minor additional costs to participate in a fish monitoring effort and to report on the results to the Legislature. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.'

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**STATEMENT OF FACT**

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This amendment adds a sentence that will repeal the gill netting prohibition established in the bill in 2 years. The amendment also directs the Department of Marine Resources to cooperate with voluntary efforts by recreational anglers to record catches or estimate populations of striped bass in the tidal waters of the Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers. After concluding those monitoring efforts, a report may be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resource matters.

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