

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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117th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1995

Legislative Document

No. 850

H.P. 625

House of Representatives, March 14, 1995

An Act to Regulate the Use of Gill Nets in the Coastal Waters of the State.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative SHIAH of Bowdoinham.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ADAMS of Portland, BENEDIKT of Brunswick,
DAVIDSON of Brunswick, SAXL of Portland.

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

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Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6553-B, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 681, §1,
4 is amended to read:

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§6553-B. Fixed gill nets; limited prohibition

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A person may not use a gill net that is fixed or anchored to
the bottom or shore in ~~any tidal~~ the coastal waters of the
10 ~~Kennebec River or the Androscoggin River or their tidal~~
~~tributaries, including those tidal waters of Phippsburg, West~~
12 ~~Bath, Bath, Bowdoinham, Topsham, Dresden, Woolwich, Arrowsic and~~
~~Georgetown that are connected to the Kennebec River upstream from~~
14 ~~Fert Popham~~ this State, unless that fixed gill net is tended
continuously, hauled back and emptied at least once every 2 hours
16 and is affixed with a floating marker that includes the name and
address of the owner of the net. Notwithstanding section 6204, a
18 violation of this section is a civil violation for which a
forfeiture of not more than \$500 may be adjudged.

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This section is repealed ~~July 1, 1996~~ January 1, 2000.

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Sec. 2. Commissioner of Marine Resources to monitor fish
populations. The Commissioner of Marine Resources shall monitor
continuously fish populations, including, but not limited to,
26 striped bass, cod, haddock and bluefish, in the coastal waters of
this State for the purpose of reporting the status of these fish
28 populations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
having jurisdiction over marine resources no later than January
30 1, 1999 so that the committee may use this information in
deciding whether to continue the limited prohibition on the use
32 of gill nets, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12,
section 6553-B, after January 1, 2000.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This bill prohibits the use of a fixed gill net in the
coastal waters of this State unless that net is tended
continuously. The bill repeals this prohibition on January 1,
2000. The bill directs the Commissioner of Marine Resources to
42 monitor fish populations and report the status of these
populations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature
44 having jurisdiction over marine resources to help that committee
in deciding whether to continue the prohibition in this bill
46 after January 1, 2000.