



118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

No. 671

S.P. 212

In Senate, February 4, 1997

An Act Concerning Towing in Cable Areas.

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

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock. Cosponsored by Senator PINGREE of Knox, Representative: VOLENIK of Brooklin.

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6954, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1983, c. 663, §3, is further amended to read:

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б Violation. It is unlawful to use--any operate any 1. watercraft when towing a drag or trawl along-the-seabed in any 8 waters that are identified or marked as underwater cable or pipeline areas, either as shown on the most recently published 10 United States Government nautical chart, or as shown or described by rule adopted by the commissioner. The commissioner may make 1.2 rules showing or describing the locations of underwater cables or pipelines which that are not identified on the most recent United States Government nautical charts. 14 A drag or trawl must be lifted out of the water to transit the cable area.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6954-A, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1991, c. 18 784, §9, is further amended to read:

20 1. Violation. Unless permitted by rules adopted under subsection 1-A, it is unlawful to take scallops by any means or to operate any watercraft when towing a drag or trawl within the 22 following area: starting at the easternmost point on Red Point, Island; thence easterly direction 24 Swan's in an to the southernmost point of the western Sister's Island; thence in a southeasterly direction to the southernmost point of Crow Island; 26 thence in a southerly direction to the northernmost point of Harbor Island, Frenchboro, Long Island; thence southerly to the 28 state ferry terminal located on the eastern side of Lunt's 30 Harbor, Frenchboro, Long Island, and then starting at the westernmost point of Gooseberry Point on Frenchboro, Long Island; westerly to the northeast point of John's Island; 32 thence northwest to the easternmost point of the largest of the Baker Islands; thence northwesterly to the northeastern point of Harbor 34 Island, Swan's Island; thence northerly to Quarry Wharf, Minturn, Swan's Island. A drag or trawl must be lifted out of the water 36 to transit the cable area.

SUMMARY

42 This bill amends the laws concerning dragging in waters identified as underwater cable or pipeline areas to clarify that a person may not operate a watercraft when towing a drag or trawl over such an area and to require that a drag or trawl must be lifted out of the water to transit a cable area.