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Legislative Document

No. 310

S.P. 113

In Senate, January 14, 1999

An Act to Allow Children to Fish from the Banks of Rivers Designated as Quality Fishing Rivers.

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

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JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator KIEFFER of Aroostook. Cosponsored by Representative DUNLAP of Old Town and Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis, Representatives: AHEARNE of Madawaska, CLARK of Millinocket, O'NEAL of Limestone, USHER of Westbrook.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted 2 as emergencies; and 4 Whereas, a lifelong interest in recreational sport fishing 6 begins with children who have the opportunity to fish; and Whereas, current sport fishing rules unreasonably restrict 8 the opportunity for a child to fish with a single baited hook and 10 line; and 12 Whereas, such opportunities must be in place as quickly as possible; and 14 Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of 16 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and 18 safety; now, therefore, 20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 22 Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7557-A is enacted to read: 24 \$7557-A. Quality fishing rivers; identification; open to persons under 12 years of age fishing with a single baited hook 26 and line 28 Rules adopted by the commissioner that set forth the special 30 fishing rules for inland waters of the State must list together and in one place all rivers or river segments identified by the department as quality fishing rivers, Notwithstanding any 32 special rules on those quality fishing rivers adopted under this 34 Part, a person under 12 years of age may, during the open water fishing season, fish with a single baited hook and line from the 36 bank of any river or river segment identified by the commissioner as a quality fishing river. Rules adopted pursuant to this 38 section are routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter II-A. 40 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the 42 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved. 44 **SUMMARY** 46 This bill specifies that the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife must list in its special fishing rules all rivers or 48 river segments identified as quality fishing rivers. For easy 50 reference those rivers must be listed together and in one

	location in that rul	e book.	Regardless	of any	other special
2	regulations adopted by	the dep	artment, the	bill al	so opens those
	quality fishing rivers	to fish	ing during t	he open	fishing season
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4 by children under 12 years of age who fish from the bank, using a single baited hook and line.