

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 327

S.P. 130

In Senate, January 14, 1999

An Act to Provide for Additional Management Measures of the Scallop Industry.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GOLDTHWAIT of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative PINKHAM of Lamoine and
Representatives: DUGAY of Cherryfield, STANWOOD of Southwest Harbor.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6722**, as amended by PL 1983, c. 685, is
further amended to read:

6 **§6722. Closed areas**

8 Unless modified by regulation adopted under section 6171-A,
10 it is unlawful to fish for or take scallops in the coastal waters
from April 16th to ~~October--31st~~ November 30th, both days
12 inclusive.

14 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6726, sub-§1, ¶¶B and C**, as enacted by PL
1997, c. 281, §1, are amended to read:

16 B. From ~~November 1, 1999~~ December 1, 1999 to April 15,
18 2001, 3 1/4 inches in diameter; and

20 C. On ~~November 1, 2001~~ December 1, 2001 and thereafter, 3
22 1/2 inches in diameter.

24 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6727, sub-§§1 and 2**, as enacted by PL 1997, c.
281, §1, are amended to read:

26 **1. Opening month of season.** It is unlawful from ~~November~~
~~1st to November 30th~~ December 1st to December 31st for a person
28 to possess on any vessel fishing for scallops in the coastal
waters, or to utilize when fishing for or taking scallops in the
30 coastal waters, a drag or any combination of drags that measures
in excess of 5 feet, 6 inches across from one extreme outside
32 edge of the mouth of the drag or combination of drags to the
opposite extreme outside edge.

34 **2. Remainder of season.** It is unlawful from ~~December 1st~~
January 1st to April 15th for a person to possess on any vessel
36 fishing for scallops in the coastal waters, or to utilize when
38 fishing for or taking scallops in the coastal waters, a drag or
any combination of drags that measures in excess of 10 feet, 6
40 inches across from one extreme outside edge of the mouth of the
drag or combination of drags to the opposite extreme outside edge.

42 **SUMMARY**

44 This bill changes the scallop season to December 1st to
46 April 15th from the current season of November 1st to April 15th
and requires a minimum 3 1/4-inch ring diameter for scallop drags
48 from December 1, 1999 to April 15, 2001 and a 3 1/2-inch ring
diameter after December 1, 2001. The bill limits scallop drag
50 width to 5 feet, 6 inches from December 1st to December 31st and
10 feet, 6 inches from January 1st to April 15th.