

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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M
R.S.

L.D. 901

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MARINE RESOURCES

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 651, L.D. 901, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Scallop Fishing Season and Scallop Fishing Gear Requirements"

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting in its place the following:

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

§6722. Closed areas

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

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6726, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 281, §1, is amended to read:

1. Minimum size. It is unlawful to utilize a drag to fish for or take scallops in the coastal waters with rings that measure less than:

A. ~~From November 1, 1997 to April 15, 1999, 3 inches in diameter;~~

B. From ~~November~~ December 1, 1999 to April 15, 2001 ~~2000~~, 3 1/4 inches in diameter; and

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2 C. On ~~November~~ December 1, 2001 2000 and thereafter, 3 1/2 inches in diameter.

4 Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6727, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 281, §1, is repealed.

6 Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6727, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 281, §1, is amended to read:

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

18 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

22 **FISCAL NOTE**

24 This bill may increase prosecutions for Class D crimes. If a jail sentence is imposed, the additional costs to the counties are estimated to be \$82.48 per day per prisoner. These costs are not reimbursed by the State. The number of prosecutions that may result in a jail sentence and the resulting costs to the county jail system are expected to be insignificant.

30 The additional workload, administrative costs and indigent defense 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. The collection of additional fines may also increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.'

40 **SUMMARY**

42 This amendment replaces the bill. It shortens the open scallop season by one month. It requires scallop rings to measure 3 1/2 inches in diameter beginning on December 1, 2000. Current law requires a 3 1/2 inch ring size beginning on November 1, 2001. The amendment also eliminates the smaller size limit on scallop drags for the opening month of the season and instead

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maintains the size limit of 10 feet, 6 inches for the entire open scallop season. The amendment adds a fiscal note to the bill.

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