

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 901

H.P. 651

House of Representatives, February 2, 1999

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Scallop Fishing Season and Scallop Fishing Gear Requirements.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph W. Mayo".

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative VOLENIK of Brooklin.
Cosponsored by Representative GOODWIN of Pembroke.

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

2
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 inclusive.

12 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6722-A** is enacted to read:

14 **§6722-A. Uniform openings**

16 ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the commissioner may not by rule adjust the open scallop season.~~

18 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6726, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 281, §1, is amended to read:

20 **1. Minimum size.** It is unlawful to utilize a drag to fish
22 for or take scallops in the coastal waters with rings that
24 measure less than 3 1/2 inches.

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

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

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

32 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6727**, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 281, §1, is amended to read:

34 **§6727. Drag width**

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

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

9 **Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §6728** is enacted to read:

10 **§6728. Sunday closure**

11 It is unlawful during the open scallop season for a person
12 to fish for or take scallops in the coastal waters on Sundays.
13

14
15 **SUMMARY**

16
17 This bill shortens the open scallop season by one month. It
18 also requires scallop rings to measure 3 1/2 inches in diameter.
19 Current law requires a 3 1/2 inch ring size beginning on November
20 1, 2001. It also prohibits scallop fishing on Sundays. In
21 addition, the bill provides for a uniform open season along the
22 entire Maine coast by repealing the commissioner's authority to
23 adjust the season by rule.

24
25 The bill also adjusts the dates of limits on the size of
26 scallop drags. It prohibits use of a drag with a width greater
27 than 5 1/2 feet from December 1st to December 31st. It prohibits
28 use of a drag with a width greater than 10 1/2 feet from January
29 1st to April 15th.
30
31
32