

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1624

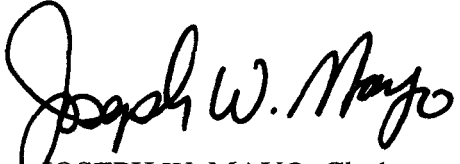
H.P. 1139

House of Representatives, March 2, 1999

An Act to Amend the Lobster Trap Escape Vent Laws.

(EMERGENCY)

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


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative ETNIER of Harpswell.

2 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

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6 **Whereas,** certain federal requirements mandate a change in
the lobster trap escape vent in the spring of 1999; and

8 **Whereas,** this legislation should coincide with those federal
changes; and

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12 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
14 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
safety; now, therefore,

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

18 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6433, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 1987, c. 217,
20 is further amended to read:

22 **1. Vent required.** It shall ~~be~~ is unlawful to fish for or to
take lobsters unless the lobster trap is equipped with
24 unobstructed vents or gaps in the parlor section ~~which--are as~~ as
follows:

26 A. A rectangular or oblong escape vent not less than 1 3/4
28 inches (44.5 mm.) by 5.75 inches (146 mm.) located next to
the bottom edge or on the top if the escape vent is placed
30 over the head of the parlor section;

32 B. Two circular escape vents not less than 2 1/4 inches
(57.2 mm.) in diameter located next to the bottom edge;

34 C. A gap caused by raising, modifying or separating
36 horizontal laths to comply with paragraph A or B;

38 D. A gap caused by separating or modifying vertical laths
to comply with paragraph A;

40 E. A gap caused by separating both ends of 2 laths 1 3/4
42 inches (44.5 mm.) on the top of the parlor section next to
the middle bow or supporting frame and over the parlor head;
44 or

46 F. In a wire or plastic trap, by a gap created by cutting
vents in the side or end to comply with paragraph A or B.

48 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the
50 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

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SUMMARY

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This bill amends the location of the escape vent on lobster traps to allow the vent to be placed on the top of the trap over the head of the parlor section.