

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 156

H.P. 145

House of Representatives, January 16, 2001

An Act to Limit Lobster Management Zones to State Coastal Waters.

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

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative HONEY of Boothbay.
Cosponsored by Senator SAVAGE of Knox and
Representatives: ETNIER of Harpswell, McNEIL of Rockland, PINKHAM of Lamoine,
USHER of Westbrook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6446, sub-§1**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 468,
4 §8, is amended to read:

6 **1. Establishment of zones.** The commissioner may establish
by rule zones to facilitate local or regional management of
8 lobster fishery efforts. A lobster management zone may not
extend beyond 3 nautical miles from the coastline of the State.

10 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6446, sub-§1-A**, as enacted by PL 1999, c.
12 508, §1, is amended to read:

14 **1-A. Declared lobster zone.** A person shall declare on an
application for a Class I, Class II or Class III lobster and crab
16 fishing license the lobster management zone in which that person
proposes to fish a majority of that person's lobster traps. A
18 license must identify the zone in which the person is authorized
to fish a majority of that person's lobster traps. When fishing
20 beyond 3 nautical miles of the coastline of the State, a license
holder is not limited to fishing a majority of that person's
22 traps within that person's declared lobster zone.

24 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6446, sub-§3**, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 468,
26 §8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

28 **3. Application of zone rules.** Rules adopted for a zone
pursuant to subsection 2 apply to a person who holds a license
under section 6421 and who fishes for lobsters in more than one
30 zone as follows.

32 A. When fishing within 3 nautical miles of the coastline of
the State, a license holder is subject to the most
34 restrictive rules regarding the number of lobster traps
allowed on a trawl and the time of day when lobster fishing
36 may occur adopted for any zone in which the license holder
fishes. Such rules do not apply beyond 3 nautical miles of
38 the coastline of the State.

40 B. When fishing within 3 nautical miles of the coastline of
the State, a license holder is subject to the most
42 restrictive rules regarding the number of lobster traps
fished and the time periods allowed for complying with that
44 number adopted for any zone in which the license holder
fishes. When fishing beyond 3 nautical miles of the
46 coastline of the State, a license holder is subject to the
rules adopted for the zone declared by the license holder as
48 the zone in which the person fishes a majority of that
person's lobster traps.

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SUMMARY

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6 This bill limits lobster management zones to within 3
8 nautical miles of the coastline of the State and clarifies how
10 rules adopted for lobster management zones will apply when the
12 zones are limited to 3 nautical miles from the coastline of the
14 State. A lobster license holder will not be required to fish a
16 majority of that person's traps within the license holder's
18 declared lobster zone when fishing beyond 3 nautical miles.

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14 A license holder will be subject to the most restrictive
16 rules regarding the number of lobster traps allowed on a trawl
18 and the time of day when lobster fishing may occur adopted for
20 any zone in which the license holder fishes only when fishing
22 within 3 nautical miles. A license holder will be subject to the
most restrictive rules regarding the number of lobster traps
fished adopted for any zone in which the license holder fishes
when that license holder is fishing within 3 nautical miles and
will be subject to the rules for the license holder's own zone
when fishing beyond 3 nautical miles.