

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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120th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2001

Legislative Document

No. 232

H.P. 202

House of Representatives, January 23, 2001

**An Act to Regulate the Marking and Placement of Baitfish Traps,
Baitfish Holding Boxes and Buoys in Inland Waters.**

Reference to the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND, Clerk

Presented by Representative TRACY of Rome.
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Aroostook and
Representatives: BUNKER of Kossuth Township, CHICK of Lebanon, CLARK of
Millinocket, GOODWIN of Pembroke, HATCH of Skowhegan, McGLOCKLIN of Embden,
PATRICK of Rumford, TARAZEWICH of Waterboro.

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

2

3 **Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §7606, sub-§2**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 687,
4 §5, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

6

7 **2. Failure to label baitfish traps, baitfish holding boxes**
8 **or associated buoys.** A person who immerses a baitfish trap or
9 baitfish holding box or places or locates a buoy associated with
10 a baitfish trap or baitfish holding box within the inland waters
11 of the State without the device plainly bearing the name, address
12 and current telephone number of the owner of the equipment is
13 guilty of failure to label baitfish traps, baitfish boxes or
14 buoys.

14

15 **Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §7606, sub-§4** is enacted to read:

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17 **4. Buoy specifications.** A baitfish trap buoy or a baitfish
18 holding box buoy placed or located within the inland waters of
19 the State must be a minimum of 4 inches in diameter and 12 inches
20 in height and be covered with a reflective coating that is
21 visible from all sides and covers a minimum of 25% of the visible
22 surface area of the buoy.

24

25 **Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §7606-C** is enacted to read:

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27 **§7606-C. Placement of baitfish traps and baitfish holding boxes**

28

29 **1. Placement limitations.** Within the inland waters of the
30 State, a person may not place, locate or set a baitfish trap or
31 baitfish holding box that is:

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33 **A. Within 1,000 feet of any public or private boat launch,**
34 **dock, wharf or mooring;**

34

35 **B. Under a bridge or trestle or within 100 feet of any**
36 **bridge or trestle support;**

36

38

39 **C. Within any marked or unmarked channel;**

40

41 **D. Within 50 feet of the edge of any marked or unmarked**
42 **channel;**

42

43 **E. Within 50 feet of the center of any river, stream or**
44 **flowage; or**

44

46

47 **F. Within 50 feet of any other baitfish trap or baitfish**
48 **holding box.**

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SUMMARY

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6 This bill requires all baitfish traps, baitfish holding
boxes and associated buoys to be labeled with the owner's name,
8 address and current telephone number. The bill establishes
minimum size and reflective coating requirements for all buoys.
10 The bill also establishes the minimum distance baitfish traps and
baitfish boxes may be located from public and private boat
12 launches, docks, wharfs, moorings, bridges and trestles. In
addition, the bill prohibits the placement of a baitfish trap or
14 baitfish holding box in a channel or within 50 feet of the edge
of the channel. The bill also prohibits the placement of a
baitfish trap or holding box within 50 feet of another baitfish
16 trap or baitfish holding box.