

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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122nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2006

Legislative Document

No. 1786

S.P. 703

In Senate, December 30, 2005

An Act to Allow Dragging in Lower Taunton Bay

(AFTER DEADLINE)

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 28, 2005. Referred to the Committee on Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAMON of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative PERCY of Phippsburg and
Representative: KAELIN of Winterport.

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

Whereas, family livelihoods are and will continue to be severely impacted if this area is closed to dragging; and

Whereas, it is necessary to reopen the area as soon as possible; and

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 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6959-A, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 160, §1, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

§6959-A. Dragging in Taunton River area

1. Dragging prohibited. A person may not fish with any drag or combination of drags in the territorial waters westerly and northerly of Sullivan Falls in the towns of Hancock and Sullivan in Hancock County, including Egypt Bay, Taunton Bay and Hog Bay. This section does not apply to research activities in Taunton Bay that are authorized by the commissioner. Research activities may include, but are not limited to, scientific studies and experimental commercial mussel harvesting.

2. Exception. Notwithstanding subsection 1, a person may fish with any drag or combination of drags in the territorial waters of Taunton Bay north of Sullivan Falls and south of the Route 1 bridge in the towns of Hancock and Sullivan in Hancock County.

3. Repeal. This section is repealed July 1, 2008.

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

SUMMARY

This bill allows dragging in the Taunton River area north of Sullivan Falls and south of the Route 1 bridge in the towns of Hancock and Sullivan in Hancock County.