

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 575

S.P. 190

In Senate, February 16, 2017

An Act To Improve the Enforcement of Maine's Lobster Laws

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather J.R. Priest".

HEATHER J.R. PRIEST
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative TUELL of East Machias and
Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, COLLINS of York, MAKER of Washington,
WHITTEMORE of Somerset.

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

2 **CONCEPT DRAFT**

3 **SUMMARY**

4 This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

5 This bill would enact measures to improve the enforcement of the State's lobster
6 conservation laws and ensure the long-term sustainability of the lobster resource. These
7 measures may include:

8 1. Establishing minimum penalties such as license suspension to deter violations,
9 including scrubbing lobsters, fishing over the trap limit, fishing sunken trawls or
10 untagged gear and molesting lobster traps;

11 2. Establishing minimum monetary fines to deter violations, including keeping short,
12 over-sized, v-notched or egg-bearing female lobsters, and higher minimum penalties for
13 repeat offenders;

14 3. Allowing the Commissioner of Marine Resources to revoke the marine resources
15 licenses of those found guilty of sinking, burning or otherwise destroying another
16 fisherman's vessel;

17 4. Requiring lobster fishing license holders found guilty of violating marine
18 conservation laws to pay restitution equal to the cost incurred by the State to conduct the
19 investigation for offenses, including scrubbing lobsters; fishing over the trap limit; fishing
20 sunken trawls or untagged gear; keeping short, over-sized, v-notched or egg-bearing
21 female lobsters; molesting lobster traps; or sinking, burning or otherwise destroying
22 another fisherman's vessel; and

23 5. Requiring a lobster fishing license holder convicted of a marine resources
24 violation resulting in a license suspension who reenters the lobster fishery to reenter as a
25 new entrant limited to 300 traps and to have a vessel monitoring system aboard the
26 license holder's vessel. Such a lobster fishing license holder would be allowed to build up
27 the number of traps at a rate of 100 traps per year up to the lobster zone limit.