

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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E I G H T Y - S I X T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 547

S. P. 342

In Senate, Feb. 8, 1933.

Reference reconsidered. Tabled by Senator Blaisdell of Hancock pending reference and 500 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator McLoon of Knox.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Measurement of Lobsters.

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

R. S. c. 50, § 38, amended. Section 38 of chapter 50 of the revised statutes is hereby repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

‘Sec. 38. Legal size of lobsters and method of measurement; penalty; prohibitions; penalties. No person shall buy, or sell, give away, or expose for sale, or possess for any purpose any lobsters less than three and one-half inches in length, alive or dead, cooked or uncooked, measured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to the rear end of the body shell; and any lobster shorter than the prescribed length when caught shall be immediately liberated alive at the risk and cost of the parties taking it, under a penalty of five dollars for each lobster so caught, bought, sold, given away, exposed for sale, or in possession. The possession of mutilated lobsters, cooked or uncooked, shall be prima facie evidence that they are not of the required length. Measures for determining the legal length of lobsters shall be provided by the state and may be obtained from the commissioner of sea and shore fisheries at cost. No evidence shall be received in any of the courts of the state in any matter in which the length of a lobster is in question unless such length has been determined by such a measure. Whoever ships, transports, carries, buys, gives away, sells, or exposes

for sale lobster meat after the same shall have been taken from the shell, without the tail meat being whole and intact or shorter than five and one-half inches in length, when laid out straight and measured from end to end, not including the small part that is on the body end of the tail meat, shall be liable to a penalty of ten dollars for each pound of meat so shipped, transported, carried, bought, given away, sold, or exposed for sale. Any person or corporation in the business of common carrier of merchandise who shall knowingly carry or transport from place lobster meat after the same shall have been taken from the shell, shall be liable to a penalty of fifty dollars upon each conviction thereof. All lobster meat so illegally shipped, carried, bought, given away, sold, or exposed for sale shall be liable to seizure and may be confiscated.

The commissioner in his discretion may issue permits to dealers who request them, on payment of ten dollars, whenever said commissioner is satisfied that said applicant for permit will take meat only from legal lobsters. Persons, firms or corporations holding permits are required to put on each package of meat the name and number of their license, place of business, date meat was taken from shell and number of pounds in package or other container and the purchaser shall be required to hold all data referring to lobster meat until the meat is sold. Any person violating the terms of his permit shall be liable to the fines and penalties provided in section 21 of the license laws.'