

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 75

H. P. 206

House of Representatives, Jan. 21, 1937.

Referred to Committee on Sea and Shore Fisheries and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Sleeper of Rockland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-SEVEN

AN ACT to Regulate the Size of Mesh in Nets Used by Beam Trawlers.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, the unlimited and unrestricted use of beam trawls or otter trawls in the tidal and coastal waters of the state is proving destructive to the fishing industry of the state by destroying the smaller fish before they have time to grow to a size sufficient to make them valuable for commercial or food purposes; and

Whereas, such destruction is useless, wasteful and costly, and its further continuance is a serious menace to the fishing industry of the state; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of section 16 of article XXXI 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. Use of trawls, regulated. The use of either otter or beam trawls within the territorial waters of the state of Maine is hereby prohibited unless the same are properly provided with net or nets having all meshes thereon measure not less than $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches mesh by diagonal, or stretch measurement as it is commonly known and called among shore fishermen.

Sec. 2. Penalty. Whoever violates any of the provisions of this act shall be punished by a fine of \$100 for the first offense and default of payment, 30 days in jail; and for the second offense he shall pay a fine of \$200 and in default of payment 60 days in jail.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency recited in the preamble, this act shall take effect when approved.