

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
MARINE RESOURCES
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

resources license. The bill also proposed elimination of language which defined the scope of the Commissioner's (DMR) decision following such a hearing. The bill proposed mandatory suspension of a lobster license under certain conditions. The bill proposed changes in the scope of legitimate Lobster Fund activities and in the source of lobsters purchased with the monies from the Fund. The committee rejected the proposed changes in license suspensions law and dealt with the Lobster Fund issues in a separate bill (LD 1552).

LD: 55 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE CLOSED PERIOD FOR THE CONNERS
TAKING OF LOBSTERS

LU-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

The bill proposed changes in the daily closed period for lobster fishing during the summer and fall months (June - October). Lobstering after 5 PM would have been banned between June 1st and August 31st. Night lobstering would have been permitted from September 1st through May 31st. The committee rejected the bill on the grounds that it was too restrictive of part-time lobstering.

LD: 83 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE CLOSED PERIOD FOR THE CONNERS
TAKING OF LOBSTERS

LU-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

Same as LD 55.

LD: 144 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE HARVESTING OF SCALLOPS SCARPINO

LU-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

The bill eliminates the personal use exemption for the taking of scallops and would require all scallop harvesters (sport and commercial) to obtain a commercial scallop license. The committee rejected the bill as inconsistent

with provisions of marine law allowing unlicensed personal use harvesting in most instances.

LD: 161 AN ACT TO CLARIFY CERTAIN PENALTY PROVISIONS CROWLEY
EMERGENCY OF THE MARINE RESOURCES LAWS

OTP HOUSE Emerg. Enacted PUBLIC
SENATE Emerg. Enacted CH # 9
GOV EMER SIGNED

SUMMARY:

This bill made the penalty provisions of the municipal and state 2" clam laws consistent. Violation of either is to be treated as "a crime punishable by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1000."

LD: 230 AN ACT TO REPEAL THE MAXIMUM LENGTH LOBSTER CROWLEY
MEASUREMENT MCGOWAN
RUHLIN

MAJ OTP HOUSE Accepted MIN Committee Report
MIN ONTP SENATE Accepted MIN Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

The bill would have repealed the 5" maximum size limitation on the harvest and sale of lobsters. The bill was strongly supported by the lobster dealers and opposed by the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA). The DMR officially took a neutral position. The major issues of controversy centered on equity, the alleged importance of the the large lobsters to the breeding stock and the potential for economic dislocations if offshore lobstermen substantially increased their landings of all sized lobsters.

Dealers asserted that since all of Maine's neighbors allow the taking of large lobsters, they operated at a severe disadvantage in filling out-of-state orders that included large lobsters. Offshore lobstermen testified that it was unfair to force them to throw back the large lobsters when lobstermen from other states were catching them in the same areas.

Testimony regarding the biological importance was not conclusive and was hotly contested. Specific evidence of economic dislocation was not presented.

The committee reported the bill out OTP on a 7-6 vote. The bill failed in the House.