



# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 575

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S.P. 190

In Senate, February 16, 2017

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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.