

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—
S.P. 597 - L.D. 1742

**An Act To Ensure Compliance with the Interstate Fishery Management Plan
for American Lobster**

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6431, sub-§1, as amended by PL 2011, c. 266, Pt. A, §9, is further amended to read:

1. Minimum and maximum length. A Except as provided in subsections 1-A and 1-B, a person may not buy, sell, give away, transport, ship or possess any lobster that is less than the minimum size established in this subsection 3 1/4 inches or more than 5 inches in length, as determined by the lobster measure certified in accordance with subsection 3. Except as provided in subsection 1-A, the minimum lobster size is 3 8/32 inches.

Sec. 2. 12 MRSA §6431, sub-§1-B is enacted to read:

1-B. Compliance with interstate fishery management plan. The commissioner may adopt rules to set minimum and maximum lobster sizes different from those specified in subsection 1 when necessary to comply with changes to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The commissioner shall notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters when initiating rulemaking pursuant to this subsection.

Sec. 3. 12 MRSA §6433, sub-§1-A, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 677, §§4, 6 and 7, is amended to read:

1-A. Adjustment. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the commissioner shall specify by rule the dimensions of vents in lobster traps, which shall must be appropriate for the minimum legal lobster size in effect pursuant to section 6431. The commissioner may adopt rules to set different dimensions of vents in lobster traps when necessary to comply with changes to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The commissioner

shall notify the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over marine resources matters when initiating rulemaking pursuant to this subsection.