
To accompany the petition of the South Shore Lobster Fishermen's Assn., by Frank Moore, president, for legislation to establish the legal length of lobsters and providing a double gauge method of measurement. Conservation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-Five.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LEGAL LENGTH OF LOBSTERS,
AND PROVIDING A DOUBLE GAUGE METHOD OF MEASURE-
MENT.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in
General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,
as follows:*

1 Chapter 130 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by striking out section 44, as most recently amended by
3 chapter 156 of the acts of 1953, and inserting in place
4 thereof the following section: —

5 *Section 44.* The commissioner shall provide a measure,
6 designated as the state double gauge lobster measure,
7 for determining the legal length of lobsters. One gauge
8 shall be three and three-sixteenths inches in length, the
9 other shall be five inches in length, and no evidence shall
10 be admissible in any court of the commonwealth in any
11 manner in which the length of a lobster is in question,
12 unless such length has been determined by such a meas-
13 ure. This measure shall be sold by the commissioner at
14 cost.

15 No person shall buy, sell, expose for sale, give away,
16 transport or have in possession, any lobster except that
17 which is of legal length as determined by the state meas-
18 ure. Any lobster not of legal length when caught shall
19 immediately be liberated alive.

20 An illegal lobster is one of less than three and three-
21 sixteenth inches in length or more than five inches in
22 length, alive or dead, cooked or uncooked, when meas-
23 ured from the rear of the eye socket along a line parallel
24 to the center line of the body shell to the rear end of the
25 body shell.

26 The possession of lobsters, or parts thereof, alive or
27 dead, cooked or uncooked, mutilated in such manner as
28 to make accurate measurements as prescribed in this
29 section impossible, shall be prima facie evidence that
30 they are not of the required legal length.

31 Whoever violates any provision of this section relating
32 to lobsters of less than the minimum legal length shall
33 be punished by a fine of five dollars for each such lobster
34 involved, or by imprisonment for not more than ninety
35 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

36 Whoever violates any provisions of this section relating
37 to lobsters of a length greater than the maximum legal
38 length shall be punished by a fine of twenty-five dollars
39 for each such lobster involved, or by imprisonment for
40 not more than ninety days, or by both such fine and
41 imprisonment.