



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5749

February Session, 2006

* HB05749ENVAPP032006 *

AN ACT CONCERNING LOBSTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Notwithstanding the
2 provisions of section 26-157c of the general statutes, as amended by
3 this act, concerning regulations governing the taking and possession of
4 lobsters, section 26-295 of the general statutes, concerning the Atlantic
5 States Marine Fisheries Commission, or the American Lobster Fishery
6 Management Plan, published by said commission and as amended
7 from time to time, from July 2, 2006, to July 1, 2007, there shall be no
8 increase made to the minimum lobster carapace length required for the
9 possession or sale of lobsters by commercial fishermen licensed by the
10 Commissioner of Environmental Protection under the authority of
11 section 26-142a of the general statutes. During said time period, there
12 shall be no restrictions, other than those required by said commission,
13 and those in effect as of July 2, 2006, placed on commercial lobster
14 fishing gear, including, but not limited to, lobster pots and lobster pot
15 escape vent dimensions, commercial lobster possession limits, day or
16 trip limits or commercial purchases or sales of lobsters by or from such
17 commercial fishermen.

18 Sec. 2. Section 26-157c of the general statutes is repealed and the
19 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

20 (a) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall adopt

21 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, governing
 22 the taking of lobsters in the waters of this state and the possession of
 23 lobsters in the state regardless of where taken for the purpose of
 24 conserving and managing the populations of American lobster.

25 (b) Not later than October 1, 2006, the commissioner shall adopt
 26 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to
 27 implement a lobster trap allocation buy-back program. Said
 28 regulations shall include, but not be limited to, provisions for a
 29 payment of fifteen dollars for each allocated lobster trap permanently
 30 retired from the lobster fishery. Said regulations shall be limited to the
 31 buy-back of lobster trap allocations of resident commercial lobster
 32 fishermen holding lobster trap allocations issued by the commissioner
 33 and who have reported lobster landings between January 1, 1999, and
 34 December 31, 2005, as determined by the commissioner, based on
 35 reports submitted pursuant to section 26-157b, or who have received
 36 license transfers with trap allocations, and shall not require the buy-
 37 back of lobster traps. For purposes of this subsection, "lobster trap"
 38 means lobster pot.

39 Sec. 3. (*Effective July 1, 2006*) The sum of one million dollars is
 40 appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection, from the
 41 General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, to implement
 42 the provisions of section 26-157c of the general statutes, as amended by
 43 this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	26-157c
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

ENV

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

APP