

**2012 -- H 7367 SUBSTITUTE A AS AMENDED**

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LC01042/SUB A  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

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A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE - COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Introduced By: Representatives Tanzi, Martin, and Ehrhardt

Date Introduced: February 02, 2012

Referred To: House Environment and Natural Resources

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Sections 20-4-2, 20-4-3 and 20-4-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 20-4  
2 entitled "Commercial Fisheries" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3           **20-4-2. Otter trawls, pair trawls, and beam trawls -- Areas prohibited.** – (a) Unless  
4 otherwise specified in regulations adopted by the ~~marine fisheries council~~ [director](#) and except for  
5 those areas described in section 20-4-3, no person shall operate a beam, pair, or otter trawl or  
6 other mechanical trawling device in the Sakonnet River, Narragansett Bay, in Point Judith Pond,  
7 so-called, in the towns of Narragansett and South Kingstown, or the Harbor of Refuge, so-called,  
8 in the town of Narragansett, or in Potter Pond, so-called, in the town of South Kingstown, or in  
9 Great Salt Pond, so-called, in the town of New Shoreham.

10           (b) [No person shall, prior to March 1, 2013, operate a pair trawl in any of the waters of](#)  
11 [the state.](#)

12           **20-4-3. Otter trawls, pair trawls, and beam trawls -- Areas allowed.** Any duly  
13 licensed resident commercial fisherman and a nonresident commercial fisherman licensed  
14 pursuant to ~~section 20-2-28,~~ [chapter 20-2.1](#), may operate otter, beam, or pair trawls or other  
15 mechanical trawling device subject to rules and regulations of the ~~marine fisheries council,~~  
16 [director](#), in the area of Narragansett Bay, and Sakonnet River south of a line, extending from  
17 Spink Neck in the town of North Kingstown in a northeasterly direction to Pine Hill Point on  
18 Prudence Island and from a point at Homestead Dock on the easterly shore of Prudence Island,  
19 thence northeasterly to Hog Island shoal light, thence to the north abutment of Mt. Hope Bridge

1 in the town of Bristol, and south of a line extending from McCurry Point on the east side of the  
2 town of Portsmouth northeasterly in a line to southerly point of Jack's Island, so-called, in the  
3 town of Tiverton. The area subject to this section may be changed by rules and regulations  
4 adopted by the ~~marine fisheries council~~ [director](#).

5 **20-4-4. Otter trawls, pair trawls, and beam trawls -- Penalties. --** Any person who  
6 operates an otter, beam, or pair trawl or other mechanical trawling device without a license as  
7 provided in section 20-4-3, shall, upon conviction, be fined five hundred dollars (\$500) for each  
8 offense or may be imprisoned not exceeding thirty (30) days, or both. In addition to any fines  
9 imposed for failure to secure a license, the person shall be subject to the same penalties as set  
10 forth in section 20-1-16 should the person set a beam, pair, or otter trawl or other mechanical  
11 trawling device in areas prohibited by section 20-4-2 or rules adopted under this section.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1           This act would prohibit pair trawl fishing vessels from operating in state waters prior to  
2   March 1, 2013. This act would also provide that commercial fishing, including otter and beam  
3   trawling, shall be regulated by the department of environmental management.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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Presented by