

2012 -- S 2357

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LC01401
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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: Senators Sheehan, and Sosnowski

Date Introduced: February 14, 2012

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

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 operate a pair trawl in any of the waters of the state.**

11 **20-4-3. Otter trawls, pair trawls, and beam trawls -- Areas allowed.** – **Otter trawls**
12 **and beam trawls -- Areas allowed.** – Any duly licensed resident commercial fisherman and a
13 nonresident commercial fisherman licensed pursuant to ~~section 20-2-28,~~ [chapter 20-2.1](#), may
14 operate otter, [or](#) beam, ~~or pair~~ trawls or other mechanical trawling device subject to rules and
15 regulations of the ~~marine fisheries council,~~ [director](#), in the area of Narragansett Bay, and
16 Sakonnet River south of a line, extending from Spink Neck in the town of North Kingstown in a
17 northeasterly direction to Pine Hill Point on Prudence Island and from a point at Homestead Dock
18 on the easterly shore of Prudence Island, thence northeasterly to Hog Island shoal light, thence to
19 the north abutment of Mt. Hope Bridge in the town of Bristol, and south of a line extending from

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

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

11 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage and shall expire on March 1, 2013.

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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. This act
2 would also provide that commercial fishing, including otter and beam trawling, shall be regulated
3 by the department of environmental management.

4 This act would take effect upon passage and shall expire on March 1, 2013.

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