

2012 -- S 2547

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LC01968  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

SENATE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
MANAGEMENT TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE PAIR - TRAWL REGULATIONS IN  
THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, Walaska, McCaffrey, Felag, and Sheehan

Date Introduced: February 28, 2012

Referred To: Senate Environment & Agriculture

1           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island commercial fishing industry plays a critical role in the  
2 state's economy, including new job opportunities which contribute to long-term sustainability of  
3 the industry;

4           WHEREAS, The presence of herring and mackerel in state waters attracts commercial  
5 fishermen, from Rhode Island as well as neighboring states, which allows both large-scale-pair-  
6 trawl operations and smaller-scale trawl fisheries in Rhode Island waters;

7           WHEREAS, The safety concerns, user conflicts and potential gear damage are paramount  
8 issues among the fisheries industry and policy makers alike; and that these issues must be  
9 resolved to foster the continued vibrancy of the fishing industry;

10           WHEREAS, Several states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region have effectively  
11 addressed issues and conflicts related to pair-trawls through policy and regulatory mechanisms;

12           WHEREAS, The Rhode Island Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) serves  
13 to research and monitor marine species to support the effective management of finfish and  
14 shellfish of commercial and recreational importance in an advisory capacity to the Director of the  
15 Department of Environmental Management (DEM); now, therefore be it

16           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
17 respectfully requests the Rhode Island Mid-Atlantic Marine Fisheries Council (RIMFC) to work  
18 in consultation with the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) to develop  
19 comprehensive regulatory reform, as soon as practicable, that shall address the issue of pair-

1 trawling in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to

3 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Governor and the Director of the Rhode

4 Island Department of Environmental Management.

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