

23:5-9

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 23:5-9 (Lobsters--permit taking of "tagged" lobsters regardless of size)

Laws of 1977 Chapter 11

Bill No. A1926

Sponsor(s) Kozloski

Date Introduced May 20, 1976

Committee: Assembly Agriculture and Environment
Senate Energy & Environment

Amended during passage Yes No

Date of passage: Assembly July 22, 1976
Senate Nov. 8, 1976

Date of approval Feb. 3, 1977

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes No
Committee Statement: Assembly Yesx No
Senate Yesx No
Fiscal Note Yesx No
Veto message Yesx No
Message on signing Yesx No

Following were printed:

Reports Yesx No
Hearings Yesx No

Sponsor's Statement:

This bill allows persons to take lobsters, regardless of size, which are tagged by the department of any government agency cooperating with the department as part of a continuing research program.

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10/4/76

ASSEMBLY, No. 1926

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 20, 1976

By Assemblymen KOZLOSKI, SPIZZIRI, FLYNN and
VAN WAGNER

Referred to Committee on Agriculture and Environment

AN ACT concerning lobsters and amending R. S. 23:5-9.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. R. S. 23:5-9 is amended to read as follows:

2 23:5-9. No person shall take from the salt waters of this State
3 by any means, import, export, have in his possession, buy, sell or
4 offer to buy or sell, any lobster, which in length shall be less than
5 three and one-eighth inches measured from the rear end of the eye
6 socket along a line parallel to the center line of the body shell to
7 the rear end of the body shell, or any spawning lobster, under a
8 penalty of \$20.00 for each lobster so taken, imported, exported,
9 offered for sale or had in possession. *This section shall not apply*
10 *to the taking or possession of lobsters bearing a tag that has been*
11 *issued or affixed by the Department of Environmental Protection*
12 *or by any other state or Federal agency with which the department*
13 *cooperates in a research project.*

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill allows persons to take lobsters, regardless of size, which are tagged by the department or any government agency cooperating with the department as part of a continuing research program.

ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 1926

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 14, 1976

Under the provisions of R. S. 23:5-9, it is illegal for any person to take or possess any egg-bearing lobster or any lobster under $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in carapace length. At the present time, however, the Division of Fish, Game, and Shellfisheries is participating in a cooperative State-Federal Lobster Management Program that includes all of the east coast lobster producing states and the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Division has been awarded Federal grants totaling \$86,000.00 to conduct a study on lobsters off the coast of New Jersey with no outlay of State funds.

Several major objectives of the study, such as the determination of migratory patterns, growth rates and natural mortality rates, are dependent upon a successful tagging program. Since it is highly probable that habitat preferences and growth rates differ with size and sex, it is important that all portions of the lobster population be included in the tagging effort. Given the current statutory requirements, however, two very important groups of lobsters would be legally excluded from this tag and recovery program.

Assembly Bill No. 1926 would exempt lobsters tagged under the auspices of the above program from the provisions of R. S. 23:5-9, thereby facilitating the success of this study of New Jersey's valuable and vulnerable lobster resource.

The Assembly Agriculture and Environment Committee has received no indication of opposition to this bill from any individual or group.