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## **An Act To Make Lobster Trap Molesting a Civil Offense**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §6434, sub-§4,** as amended by PL 2003, c. 520, §5, is further amended to read:

**4. Penalty.** If the holder of a lobster and crab fishing license violates this section by cutting a lobster trap line, the court shall:

A. Order that person to pay to the owner of the trap line that was cut an amount equal to twice the replacement value of all traps lost as a result of that cutting; and

B. Direct that person to provide proof of payment of that restitution to the commissioner as required by section 6402, subsection 1.

A penalty imposed under this subsection is ~~in addition to any~~ civil penalty imposed under section ~~6204~~ and is recoverable in a civil court.

### **SUMMARY**

This bill decriminalizes the offense of molesting a lobster trap and makes it a civil offense.