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An Act To Allow Youth To Fish for Smelt on Worthley Pond

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the smelting season is now open; and

Whereas, to allow people to fish for smelt on Worthley Pond during this season this legislation needs to take effect immediately; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 12 MRSA §12460-B is enacted to read:

§ 12460-B. Smelt fishing on Worthley Pond in Oxford County

Notwithstanding section 12456, a person who has not attained 17 years of age may fish for smelt by use of a dip net on Worthley Pond within the Town of Peru, Oxford County. A person may not:

1. Exceed daily bag limit. Exceed the daily bag limit of 2 quarts per person. A person who violates this subsection commits a Class E crime; or

2. Harvest for commercial purposes. Harvest smelt for commercial purposes. A person who violates this subsection commits a Class D crime for which a fine of not less than \$1,000 may be adjudged.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

SUMMARY

This bill allows smelt fishing by a person under 17 years of age on Worthley Pond in the Town of Peru in Oxford County.