

127th Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 7

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**Testimony of
Senator Brian Langley**

**LD 98, "An Act Amending the Trap Limit for the Swans Island
Lobster Conservation Area"**

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

February 4, 2015

Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega, and esteemed members of the Marine Resources Committee; I am Senator Brian Langley and I am proud to represent Senate District 7, which is comprised of 27 towns in Hancock County and includes the fishing community of Swans Island.

I am pleased to present LD 98, "An Act Amending the Trap Limit for the Swans Island Lobster Conservation Area." As you know, the most traps allowed by a license holder in Maine is 800. Lobstermen in the Swans Island area operate under a much smaller limit of allowable traps, currently at 550. This legislation seeks to allow those license holders in the Swans Island Lobster Conservation Area to increase their traps from 550 to 600 traps.

The current trap limit of 550 traps was increased during the last session. I met with fishermen on Swans Island this fall to talk about what it meant this past season to have the extra traps. The price was up this past summer and the extra traps, I am told, made the difference between an ok year and being able to get through the winter.

Some of the fishermen have made the trek off island to come and testify today, which is quite an undertaking in itself. These folks have to get back on the road to catch the late ferry back to Swans Island. With that being said, I have kept my remarks brief to allow them ample time to share their stories as to why the proposed 50 trap increase is needed.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this bill and your support.