



MAINE
Lobstermen's Association, Inc.

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Testimony of Patrice McCarron
Executive Director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association

In Opposition to
LD 491 An Act To Lower from 70 to 65 the Age at Which a Person
May Obtain a Lobster and Crab Fishing License for a Reduced Fee

Before the Committee on Marine Resources
March 18, 2015

Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, my name is Patrice McCarron. I am the Director of the Maine Lobstermen's Association (MLA). MLA is Maine's oldest and largest fishing industry organization whose mission is to advocate for a sustainable lobster resource and the fishermen and communities that depend on it.

The MLA Board does not support LD 491, and we opposed this same bill when it was presented in 2013 as LD 557. None of the MLA Directors or staff have ever heard concern expressed from the MLA membership over the age at which a person qualifies for a reduction in fee for a lobster license. Many lobstermen continue to fish hard well after the age of 65, and they continue to have the opportunity fish a full complement of lobster traps.

The MLA does not believe that the cost of access to the lobster fishery should be discounted at an earlier age and we urge you to vote ought not to pass on LD 491.

Thank you for your consideration of MLA's comments.