

3/18/15

Representative Kumiega, Sen. Baker and distinguished Members of the Marine Resources Committee

It is an honor to speak to you regarding LD563 as a Member of the Maine Lobstering Union. My name is Julie Eaton, lobsterboat Captain from Stonington, Me.

I have heard a lot from the Department of Marine Resources concerning latent effort - Trap tags bought + not used and how important they say the "missing information" from the statistics of these tags is.

If ~~fisher~~ lobstermen weren't in fear of trap reductions + other harvesting ability cuts, they probably wouldn't order more tags than they need. It is my opinion, having talked to fishermen, big + small, that further legislation concerning reduction possible reduction in effort will only cause these "latent" tags to become active.

I learned from a well known lobsterman from my area, Leroy Bridges, that ~~the Federal waters have a~~ there is a program upon where anyone who

no has
revel on
many
boards
state, Federal

have the DMR track the latent effort they are so worried about. They say that they have no Data or statistics for this gear. Well, if lobstermen weren't afraid of losing traps to cuts and "reduction of effort", they wouldn't feel the need to order and pay for tags they don't use.

I learned from a Highly respected lobsterman, Leroy Bridges, who has served on many Boards + Committees both State + Federal, that he can "Bank" his ~~federal tags~~ federal license until he needs it. He will maintain his License + Total number of trap tags at no cost until he wants to use them.

Why wouldn't this work for lobstermen who fish inshore too? They would buy their License + Tags and simply notify the State that they wanted to "Bank" them. Thus giving DMR a much better idea of latent effort. The lobstermen could withdraw their Lic + Tags when they wanted to start again.

No One feels threatened. No increase in traps fished and DMR has their information. The cost to operate this

would be minimal to the state.

We all win!

How Did I know about this information??

I asked ~~fisher~~ lobstermen what they thought!

Sincerely,

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