

*127th Legislature*  
*Senate of*  
*Maine*  
*Senate District 24*

*Senator Stan Gerzofsky*  
*3 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333-0003*  
*Office (207) 287-1515*  
*Home (207) 373-1328*  
*stan1340@aol.com*

*Joint Standing Committees:*  
*Criminal Justice & Public Safety*  
*Government Oversight*

**Testimony in Support of LD 435, "An Act To Extend  
the Protection of Municipal Shellfish Conservation Programs**

**Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources**  
**Wednesday, March 11, 2015**

*Select Committees:*  
*Joint Rules*  
*Senate Rules*  
*Senatorial Vote*

Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources: my name is Senator Stan Gerzofsky, and I am here to present LD 435, *An Act to Extend the Protection of Municipal Shellfish Conservation Programs*.

Maine has taken some important steps in the past few years to address the threatening issue of green crabs, and the bill before you today will help take another step forward in protecting our state's shellfish industry. LD 435 would extend the protections we put into place last session through LD 1452.

This bill would place a two year delay on the repeal of the provision of law that prohibits the harvesting of marine organisms from within municipal predator control project areas, except for municipal removal of green crabs. The bill would also provide a two year extension on the municipal predator control pilot project within the Department of Marine Resources to allow the department to properly evaluate the effectiveness of predator control strategies in increasing the survival rate of soft shell clams and marine worms.

As we know, invasive green crabs are a threat to both shellfish and worm populations. We have seen the negative effects in many of our coastal economies, which is why cooperation is essential in developing predator control strategies to mitigate the effects of green crabs. Both industries have a strong economic interest in this problem.

Without passage of this bill, the good work we have done so far will be squandered. The protections provided by LD 1452 of last session have since expired. So it is vital that we support this bill and extend the sunset provisions. If nothing is done to adequately protect our intertidal areas from green crabs, it will not be long before there is nothing to harvest.

As I have said before, when it comes to protecting Maine's shellfish industry - there is so much on the line for many hard-working Maine people, so I thank you for the opportunity to present this bill. We, as a state, have a responsibility to ensure sustainability for this key Maine industry by investing in and protecting it for future generations. I hope you can support it and help support our hard-working Mainers.