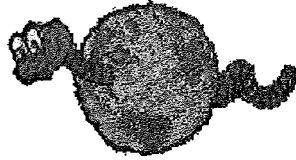


PHIL HARRINGTON BAIT  
WHOLESALE MARINE WORMS



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Good afternoon; I am not sure how to address the panel, as this is not part of my job description, so I'll just get right to it, and I hope I don't offend anyone, My name is Phil Harrington I m a marine worm dealer from Woolwich, and I have branches in Hancock, and Millbridge. I have been doing this for 25 years, but I have derived most of my livi g from the worm industry for more than 50 years. According to the DMR landings reports I handle more than half of all the marine worms landed in Maine. I cannot begin to tell you how uncomfortable I am standing up here. I can only compare it to being eaten by a shark, but there are things that need to be said. We are here to discuss~ extending the pilot project that resulted from LD1452 If you recall, L D1452 was originally an act to allow municipality's with shellfish conservation ordinances to request permission to prohibit marine worm ~harvesting. The name was changed as An act to protect areas in which shellfish conservation gear has been placed for predator control and habitat enhancement purpose, and establish a municipal predator control pilot program. The names were changed, but the goals remained the same for municipality to gain control over wormdiggers. I saw in the report that a \$55,000.00 grant for research on trapping of green crabs was given to someone, I assume Brunswick. Problem was, the cold winter of 2013 and2014 severely depleted the green crabs, and I would bet that after this winter one would be hard pressed to find a green crab anywhere. I see no reason to continue this pilot project.

Let me address the issue of repetitive digging. I don't know how many of you have ever dug worms or clams, but when you turn the mud you I have humps and holes, then the tide comes in over it, and when it I haves again, all the holes are full of water. I never found a way to dig worms under water. If a flat is dug for clams, the humps and holes are even more pronounced. Once a flat is dug for worms you must wait at

least 2 or 3 weeks for it to smooth out enough to dig. If it had been dug for clams it is more like a month. The only exception to this would be if someone ran their airboat over it to smooth it out, and the clamdiggers assure me they do not do this, and I do not know of any wormdiggers with airboats. Unless there is a red tide on, and clamdiggers are digging worms and they will give the wormdiggers rides. Research has proven that worming does not harm the clams, but some people would like to have research repeated until it comes out the way they want it. I have heard comments made about the young diggers. Let me say this. My highest paid digger last year just turned 21. My second highest was in his middle 50s. If one is not earning a decent living either clamming or worming, then they are just not applying themselves, and somehow they believe making new laws will make their lot better. My top diggers dig as many worms per year as top diggers of the 1970s dug. I have heard complaint that the wormdiggers ~have no rules. We are digging fishing bait; no one eats worms to my knowledge. Why make rules that are not necessary. Besides, we have more rules than anyone knows about. You should see the hoops we have to jump through with the federal government to ship them out of the country. Last of all, let me address the so called wormer clammer conflict in the 50 years that I've been in the business there have been squabbles that have arisen, but nothing ever came of it, and everything soon went back to normal. Then someone discussed it with a politician, and here we are. I am an old man, and soon will be just a memory. The worm business has been good to me. My whole family works in it is industry, and I would like to see them continue to do so. I urge you to allow the worm industry to continue as it is. Changes need to be made to the clam industry and I have heard some pretty good ideas, but I won't get into that. The worm industry is no threat to the clam industry, and should not be included in any changes, or rulemaking by the clam industry, and it could not survive if it were controlled by municipalities