

Macklin, Heather

From: Richard Smith <blueweapon283@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 05, 2015 9:33 PM
To: Macklin, Heather
Subject: My stance on proposals to be discussed April 6 at 1 PM in Augusta regarding lobster and other fisheries.

Hi Heather, I was hoping you'd pass this along for me. Thank you.

Heather and members of the Marine Resources Committee,

I would like to take a few moments to pass along my thoughts on proposals LD 896, LD 1016, and LD 1038 which are being discussed on the 6th.

LD 896: I think this proposal should be like a hot rock. License transferability is a terrible idea for the fishery, and becomes not just terrible but also unfair when a family clause is thrown in. No fisherman leaving the industry should be able to hand pick who ends up with the license that he/she is surrendering. It's likely unconstitutional along with just being a horrible concept. In regards to the part of this proposal that would give retiring wardens an automatic eligibility for a lobster license, it is my belief that service as a warden is not adequate replacement for time spent in the apprentice program, and surely should not entitle a retiring warden to acquire a lobster license without going through the apprentice program and waiting his turn like all other lobstering hopefuls. No special treatment, no exceptions, there should be no entitled class for the chance to become a fisherman. I say no to the logbook changes in this proposal only due to the fact that they're in the same pot as the rest of this terrible stew.

LD 1016: My belief that special treatment for retired wardens or anybody else is not a good idea spreads to all fisheries, whether I'm part of them or not. Wardens get a pension, and have had a vehicle supplied to them during their service, so not only do they have money coming in but also haven't been required to make expenditures for their own work vehicle over the course of their service. With advantages like these, why should they be entitled to opportunities not afforded anybody else, or to a head-start past things like the lobster waiting list?

LD 1038: I'm against the idea of handing off more power to DMR and the Commissioner, especially when it is in the context of "Emergency Rule-making". I believe in a time of true emergency people with integral knowledge of the industry from experience as members of the industry should be heavily involved in any rule-making, hand-in-hand with DMR instead of at their mercy.

I apologize for not sending this earlier, the date of the meeting had slipped my mind. I thank you for taking the time to read this, it's greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Richard Smith, Lobster License #9401, Beals