

Macklin, Heather

From: Togue Brawn <togue.brawn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 8:54 AM
To: Macklin, Heather
Subject: Testimony for LD 896

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources:

I am writing to oppose LD 896.

I have worked with or within Maine's commercial fishing industry for almost 30 years. From the late 1980's through 2000 I worked on Portland's waterfront and helped out on my father's lobster boat. In 2002 I received a Master of Science in Marine Policy and began working on fisheries research and management. My particular interest is fisheries economics, and currently I work as the Director of Research for MSC Certified Maine Lobster and also as a scallop dealer at Maine Dayboat Scallops.

Transferability has always been a hot topic in Maine fisheries. Some people would like to be able to hand their license down to a family member, some would like to sell their license and some would like to do a combination of both. It is critical to keep in mind that ANY kind of transfer program will increase the number of traps in the water as older or latent license holders transfer their license to more active participants.

Transferability *of any kind* would be a huge shift in Maine fisheries licensing. We must evaluate the fairness of any approach, and this evaluation must consider how transferability would impact those on the waiting list as well as existing fishermen who will face increased fishing pressure in "their" grounds. Most importantly, we must address how the increase in traps in the water will impact the lobster biomass and habitat overall in the Gulf of Maine.

If we choose to consider transferability in Maine fisheries, it should be done only after a careful consideration of the consequences of all elements of any transferability program. If you are interested in investigating transferability, please find a means to thoroughly analyze the issue before proceeding. In the meantime, please vote LD 896 ought not to pass.

Thank you

- Togue Brawn
MSC Certified Maine Lobster
Maine Dayboat Scallops, Inc.