

Seth Morrissette

Friendship, Maine

- Introduce self (name, town)
- Thank Reps. Thank you Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega and members of the Marine Resource Committee.
- My grandfather held a lobster license and fished from Friendship for over 65 years.
- I started fishing with him at age 12 which makes me the 6th generation of lobsterman in my family.
- Obtained my license (#9146 which remains on file with DMR) and fished on my own during high school.
  - Did not renew license when I went away to college, unaware that I would not be able to regain it in future
- I have completed the apprenticeship program and am currently on the waiting list
- As current regulations stand it would take approximately 300 people to surrender their licenses in my zone before I would be eligible to obtain mine (five leaving to every one new license).
- L.D. 896 could benefit someone like me who has an uncle who will likely surrender his license in the next fifteen to twenty years IF nothing is done to solve the current greater problem facing individuals who are trying to obtain commercial fishing licenses.
- I've been fishing with a friend of the family for past few years and may someday have the opportunity to buy him out but current regulations prohibit my doing so without having a license.
- I do acknowledge that there are people ahead of me on the waiting list who have been there for many years which is a reflection of the bigger issue at hand, namely the near impossibility of becoming an independent fisherman with the ability to adequately provide for one's family (which is obviously the end goal of any apprenticeship program).
- Thank you again for opportunity and your support. I encourage you to continue to look at and address the greater problem facing those of us who wish to continue our family fishing traditions.