

**TESTIMONY OF
Patrick Keliher, Commissioner**

**The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) is testifying
In Opposition to**

**LD 1016, An Act To Allow Retired Marine Patrol Officers to Obtain Up to
Two Marine Fisheries Licenses**

**Before the Committee on Marine Resources
Sponsored by Senator Burns
Date of Hearing: April 6, 2015**

Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, my name is Patrick Keliher, Commissioner for the Department of Marine Resources, and I am testifying on behalf of the Department in opposition to LD 1016.

This bill would provide a retired marine patrol officer with eligibility to obtain two different commercial licenses for Maine's limited entry fisheries, including the lobster, elver, scallop, and urchin fisheries. The bill also provides that issuance of these licenses must not increase the total number of licenses in the fishery.

As I stated in my testimony for LD 896, as Commissioner, I have the utmost respect for the service the Marine Patrol provides. They ensure the safety of our industry, and provide a tremendous contribution to the long-term sustainability of our resources. However, they are compensated fairly for this work while employed by the State and upon their retirement.

Although they perform specialized work, it does not seem appropriate that they should have an opportunity to enter a fishery ahead of someone who has been on a waiting list for years, or have a mechanism to enter a closed fishery when an entry mechanism does not exist for anyone else.

Thank you for your time, and I would be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.