

LD 1227, An Act to Provide for Improved Reporting of Marine Resources Landings, seeks to make necessary legislative changes so that the Department of Marine Resources can build on the success that they have experienced with the "swipe card" system that was implemented in Maine's elver fishery in 2013. Specifically, the Department is in the process of developing the necessary software to expand the use of the swipe card to the sea urchin and scallop fisheries. While the legislative authority to use this technology to collect fisheries statistics already exists, there are a number of changes to law that would facilitate this transition, which the Department will identify for you.

Fundamentally, this bill is about improving the information that the Department of Marine Resources uses to manage Maine's fisheries. Good information is necessary for effective management and that is what the swipe card system can provide. In addition, as these systems are implemented, it will open up discussions regarding new opportunities for greater flexibility for industry members regarding where and when they fish, which should be very beneficial. Again, the Department will explain the specifics of the future management options that they envision.

*Thank you,*

*— Chuck Key HD 92*