

**LaCroix, Linda**

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**From:** Victor Doyle <victorjohndoyle@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 9, 2019 7:47 PM  
**To:** MAR  
**Subject:** LD 290 testimony

C/O Marine Resources Committee

LD 290 testimony

Not in favor LD 290

Greetings Marine Resources Committee members.

My name is Victor Doyle, I was born and raised on Mount Desert Island. I have lived all of my life on MDI except for four years that I spent earning an anthropology degree from the University of Maine in Orono. Following my tenure at Orono I returned to full time commercial fishing, clam digging in particular. My personal background and experiences lead me to believe that that LD 290 would, without a doubt, increase the senseless hardships marine harvesters face in accessing the shore and intertidal zone. The traditional fishery of harvesting clams has been reliant upon access to the shoreline in many different ways. I have read many coastal Maine historical collections recalling the use of oxen or horses to transport shellfish and harvesters to and from the flats. This practice has been replaced by the use of outboard motors and automobiles but the concept has not changed. The commute to shellfishing grounds has become an issue, as more private property signs are posted the access points become fewer and farther between. I regularly make a 5 mile boat trip in rough winter weather to access clam flats that are 100 yards distance from the public way. It is dangerous and uncalled for, riparian land owners may have the right to deny public access across their private property, that is their conscious decision to make. I would recommend that as a state we make the conscious decision to allow marine harvesters to continue accessing the intertidal areas with the use of motor vehicles on our beaches.

Shellfish harvesters are some of the hardest working people in the state and provide important assets to Maine's cultural identity. The independent nature of shellfish harvesters coupled with the often 350 plus work days a year schedule makes it difficult to protect ones covenants in respect to the legislative process while feeding a family and/or congruently working other jobs. I hope to speak on the behalf of the diggers that I talk with on a daily basis, as chair of the Mount Desert Shellfish Committee, and as a full time Maine shellfish harvester. Please consider, walking a mile in our (muddy boots), it may become two miles for some if this bill passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor Doyle