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LD 971

Testimony in Opposition to L.D. 971-An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding Checking Baitfish Traps

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March 21, 2025

I oppose this bill and recommend statutory changes to promote enforcement.

- 1) Maine has several species of turtles, nearly all of which spend some or most of their lives in water. All have some measure of protection under Maine law.
- 2) If unable to surface and breathe while not hibernating, turtles drown.
- 3) Bait traps located in waters that support musk, spotted, blandings and wood turtle populations, and that can catch and trap turtles must be checked daily. These include the commonly available basket type minnow traps which can trap hatchlings.
- 4) The locations of all bait traps in waters that support blandings, spotted, musk and wood turtles must be reported to the department prior to and during placement.