



Maine Lobstering Union

Local 207



150 Bar Harbor Rd, Trenton, ME 04506

Good afternoon Honorable members of the Joint Standing Marine Resources Committee. My name is Virginia Olsen, I am a 5th generation lobsterman from Stonington. I now work for District 4 of the IAM Union and spend a lot of time with the Maine Lobstering Union. We are in favor of LD 1341 A Resolve, directing the Department of Marine Resources to Evaluate How to Effectively Allow 2 Licensed Individuals to Fish for Lobster or Scallops from a Single Vessel. First, this is a resolve, and not intended to increase effort in either fishery. The bill's intent is to look at adding tools into the toolbox of fishermen. Do we fish alone? Yes- is it dangerous? Yes. This resolve would look to DMR to figure out what would be needed to bring this bill forward. Utilizing the experience of 2 captains on one vessel in a time when it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a sternman. Scalping commercially, you are allowed either 10-15 gallons a day, depending on where you fish. The dragger in this current state statute is the only one that loses. Commercial divers are allowed multiple guys from one vessel, and recreational either diving or draggers can take multiple license holders. The commercial dragger, arguably the most dangerous of these scallop fisheries, is not given the same opportunity. It is not the intention of this bill to increase effort into either fishery or add new lines in the water. This needs thoughtful consideration for how we can support our Maine fishermen as they face new challenges. You may ask why this bill is here? We have the ability to double tag our traps, but it cuts our ability to fish the tags allocated to our license once we have achieved our tag/trap cap. We are returning to whale conversations, which lends a new set of uncertainty for our industry. This resolve will help us figure out how to best position our fishery for the future. It will look into the trap caps per vessel, both in state statute and at the ASMFC.

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

Respectfully,

Virginia Olsen

If you have any questions please call, text or email: 207-240-0556, volsen@district4.net