Matt Williams Swans island LD 1353

Im a Swans Island resident and bought a boat and gear in 2021 to fish the 2022 menhaden season, a total investment of \$85k. I previously testified in person when the license retraction bill was discussed. Since the retraction the distribution of activity used licenses are concentrated from zone c down. We are an unabridged island all bait comes by ferry, herring quota was cut causing the forecasted price to go up. Hard bait is mostly a canadian product eligible for tariffs. With out a licensed fisherman in the conservation zone we pay higher than market value for menhaden. Something must be done to allow the fisherman that made large investments to participate in a fishery, participate again. The zone a and b lobsterman need the cheap bait