

Jason Joyce
Swan's Island
LD 1353

Dear Committee Members,

Swan's Island is an unbridged island fishing community located 5 miles south of Mount Desert Island. My name is Jason Joyce and I am a lobsterman and Town Selectman writing on behalf of our fishing community and our need for at least 1 commercial license to catch the menhaden in our waters.

Bait access and rising prices are two of the obstacles our lobstermen struggle with, but unlike most midcoast communities we do not have any commercially licensed menhaden fishermen in town.

Swan's Island had 3 fishermen who invested in a boat, gear and nets and landed over 25k lbs in the last year of open licenses but they didn't have 2 years of landings in the following year and were unable to qualify for licenses.

The boat and Gear have remained dormant, but the year they fished they supplied locally caught menhaden to our fisherman's co-op.

I ask on behalf of my town for a mechanism that will enable our 3 fishermen to qualify to commercially land menhaden which in turn benefits the rest of our fishing community with access to locally caught and affordable fresh bait.

Please move this bill forward with an "ought to pass" that helps our fishermen.

Thank you