

Doug Niven  
Mere Point Oyster  
LD 1596

I am writing in support of LD 1596. I am a seafarer in Brunswick and over the past 5-10 years I have been trying to develop new techniques to deal with some of the challenges that Mother Nature throws at me.

Unfortunately, as I consider experimenting with new gear or techniques, I run into 'speed bumps' and hurdles as the current regulations require applying for a lease amendment which can take up to 8 months or longer for decision. One example is my desire to implement a 'dip tank' to help control the fouling of my floating gear and bags. My boys hold commercial lobster licenses and they have used this same 'dip tank' on their lobster boat to combat fouling of their lobster traps. However, in order for me to use this dip tank on my oyster gear, I require a lease amendment ... which is a long process.

This is just one example of the challenges that Maine Sea Farmers are dealing with.

Respectfully,  
Doug Niven  
Mere Point Oyster Co