

Jason Joyce
Swan's Island, Maine
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Dear members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources,

My name is Jason Joyce. I am an 8th generation lobsterman from Swan's Island and I am writing in favor of a 1 year extension of the marketing collaborative. I am not in favor of a 5 year extension.

I am also a member of the LAC and voted with the majority of our counsel to support a 1 year extension.

After attending all 7 of the zone counsel meetings either during the fall or winter sessions, the consistent theme I heard from most fishermen was one of disappointment (with the marketing collaborative) and a loss of confidence in its ability to deliver noticeable increased profits to the fishermen.

Most believe the marketing works but the benefits are collected upstream and never make it to the fishermen. Considering fishermen pay for 75% of the cost, many believe the Harvesters are better off supporting a good portion of the funds be allocated towards measures that boost resiliency, such as through hatcheries as is done in Canada and the U.K. or through the notching and liberating of legal sized females that would otherwise go to market.

While many fishermen have stated they would like to end the program, I believe a 1 year extension rather than a 5 year extension gives the collaborative an opportunity to increase performance and also develop a plan to use a portion of the 75% fishermen contributed fund towards population resiliency efforts.

A 1 year extension also gives the LAC time to poll the fishermen (we discussed this extensively) on how their portion of money should be spent if the state continues to collect it.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Sincerely,
Jason Joyce