

David Cousens
So Thomaston
LD 2002

Hello marine resources committee, My name is David Cousens I am a lobsterman from south Thomaston and fish on the offshore island of Criehaven next to Matinicus. I was the former president of the Maine lobsterman ass. for 27 years and am currently on the Maine lobster advisory council. I would like to voice my support for the marketing collaborative. We need an entity to help promote and brand our lobster industry. One of the most important aspect of the collaborative is when we encounter a negative impact such as right whale interaction, the collaborative can speak with one voice and get the information out to the outlets of the sustainable nature of the fishery and the things we have done to help the right whales over the last 20 years as a industry to mitigate the impacts of the lobster fishery on the right whales. I also believe in promoting our product. This year was an anomaly of what usually happens when the catch is down the price usually is up but this year the catch was down by about 15% and the price was down by about 20 percent. This did not bode well for the lobstermen's profit margins. So a lot of the lobstermen were very frustrated with this last year, but in my experience this is not the time to do away with the collaborative, rather it is a time to try to make it better and stronger. Thank you for your consideration. Sorry I missed the meeting as I did not get notified about the change of time of the meeting please put me on the notification list thanks.