

Cameron Reny Senator, District 13

THE MAINE SENATE 132nd Legislature

3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Sen. Cameron Reny introducing

LD 144, "An Act to Create a Limited Retail Seafood Harvester Certificate"

before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

February 6, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Hepler, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, I am Senator Cameron Reny, and I represent District 13, which includes most of Lincoln County and the towns of Washington and Windsor. Today, I am presenting <u>LD 144</u>, "An Act to Create a Limited Retail Seafood Harvester Certificate."

This bill from the Department of Marine Resources will make it easier for shellfish harvesters to sell their harvest without having to shoulder the expense of fixed facilities or run their product through registered dealers. It would allow them to sell their shellfish out of a vehicle, at locations like a farmer's market. It aims to increase direct sales from aquaculture farmers and shellfish harvesters to the consumer, thereby increasing availability of fresh and affordable shellfish in Maine. To be clear, this bill only applies to shellstock, or unshucked shellfish, provided by shellfish harvesters themselves.

There will be testimony from the Department and others coming behind me, and I ask that you direct further technical questions to them.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cameron Renv

State Senator, District 13

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Representing Lincoln County and the towns of Washington and Windsor