

Good afternoon, Maine's Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Joint Standing Committee,

My name is Dennis Bolduc, from Oakland. I am here today to speak in support of LD 728. I am an avid fresh water smelter and fisherman. I have been smelting for over 50 years now, and for decades, smelters have been allowed to dip their smelts, measure up their legal limit of 2 quarts and leave the water towards their vehicles. At that time, they may be checked by the warden service for compliance of their limits. Now, the wardens are checking smelters while still in the water, before having a chance to measure up their smelts. It is nearly impossible to dip exactly, 2 quarts of smelts. That's why we need to measure them first to be in compliance. Any smelts left over, are released back into the water from which they came.

This is why it is imperative that smelters be checked after measuring up and leaving. The people who choose to leave with more than their limits, then can be written a summons. Most people smelting just want to go and get a legal limit of smelts.