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March 6, 2025

*Testimony of Rep. Allison Hepler presenting*

**LD 214, An Act to Create a For-hire Charter Boat Operator License and to Require Individuals Recreationally Fishing for Halibut in Coastal Waters to Register with the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources*

Good morning, Senator Tepler and colleagues on the Marine Resources Committee. I am Allison Hepler and I represent the towns of Arrowsic, Georgetown, Phippsburg, West Bath and Woolwich. I am here today to present **LD 214, An Act to Create a For-hire Charter Boat Operator License and to Require Individuals Recreationally Fishing for Halibut in Coastal Waters to Register with the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry.**

The goal of this bill is to clarify the number of actual charter boat captains by requiring a for-hire charter boat operator's license. It would only be available to an individual holding a current guide license for tidewater fishing or who is a captain of a vessel holding a valid and current certificate of inspection issued by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Having an accurate number of charter boat captains helps the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) gather good information on how many people are fishing, how many fish are caught and other data points that provide an accurate picture of the industry.

This is a Department bill and I am grateful to sponsor it, and believe the details are best left to the Department.

Thank you.