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Testimony of Rep. Allison Hepler presenting

LD 44, An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Elver Fishing

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

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 44, An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Elver Fishing.**

This is a Department of Marine Resources (DMR) bill and I am grateful to sponsor it. The goal of LD 44 has always been to enhance the security and integrity of Maine's elver fishery but, as most of you know, the proposed content of this bill has changed dramatically since it was first published, in large part due to what we've come to expect in Maine's marine fisheries – valuable outreach and robust input. Rep. Simmons, Rep. Strout and I attended one such meeting last month at DMR in a room filled beyond capacity with elver fishermen and DMR staff. The results of that discussion you will see in the Department's amended version of this bill.

Thank you.