



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Tiffany Strout

12 Anderson Lane
Harrington, ME 04643
Home Phone: (207) 598-7043
Tiffany.Strout@legislature.maine.gov

Thursday March 13, 2025

Public Testimony of LD 816 – An Act Regarding the Emptying of Elver Fyke Nets

Presented by Representative Strout of Harrington – District 11

Good afternoon, Senator Tepler, Representative Hepler and distinguished members of the Marine Resource Committee. I am Representative Tiffany Strout from Harrington, representing the towns of Milbridge, Harrington, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Centerville, Addison, Jonesport, Beals, Jonesboro, Roque Bluffs, Whitneyville and Machias and I am here today to provide testimony in support of LD 816 An Act Regarding the Emptying of Elver Fyke Nets.

Last session I put in bill LD 817 An Act to Allow the Crew Member of a Holder of an Elver Fishing License to Empty an Elver Fyke Net. This request for a bill was brought to me by one of my constituents to help those with active elver licenses be able to keep their license and continue harvesting the elvers even if they were unable to climb down over the banks to check and dump their nets. The license holder needs to be in direct supervision of their crew member dumping their nets and then the crew member brings the elvers to the license holder.

I am happy to say LD817 passed, and I do believe it was of some assistance this past elver season. As the new law went into effect it brought to attention an oversight when requesting LD817. Currently the law allows crew members to dump the fyke net in supervision of the license holder, but it does not allow another license holder to dump the fyke net in supervision of the license holder.

LD 816 would be an addition to LD817 with allowing an elver license holder to dump another elver license holder's fyke net in direct supervision of the license holder whose name is on the net being dumped.

LD816 also helps with teaching new harvesters how to collect the elvers properly, helping to make sure the elvers make it from the water to market alive and helping to ensure future in the industry.

Thank you for your time today and I would be glad to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tiffany Strout".

Tiffany Strout
State Representative

District 11 Addison, Beals, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Harrington, Jonesboro, Jonesport, Machias, Milbridge, Roque Bluffs, Whitneyville, Centerville Township, and North Washington (Part)