



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Cheryl A. Golek

9 Vicarage Lane
Harpowell, ME 04079
Phone: (207) 535-9857
Cheryl.golek@legislature.maine.gov

March 27, 2025

Testimony of Rep. Cheryl Golek introducing
**LD 968, Resolve to Study Stakeholder Input Involving the Appointment of the
Commissioner of Marine Resources**
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

Senator Tepler, Representative Hepler, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, my name is Cheryl Golek, and I represent House District 99, which includes Harpswell and part of Brunswick. I am here today to present LD 968, A Resolve to Study Stakeholder Input Involving the Appointment of the Commissioner of Marine Resources.

The resolve presented today was submitted at the request of one of my constituents. As many of you know, Harpswell is my home. It is also a fishing community, and it hosts more coastlines than any municipality in the state. At 216 miles, Harpswell's fishing industry is hundreds of years old and has a fleet of 385 fishing vessels that generate about \$68 million in gross annual revenue. I have heard from people in my community who do not feel that they are included or part of the rulemaking process that affects their livelihoods.

I hope that this resolve before you will bring forward a conversation and invite people to the table to figure out what is working and what isn't; this resolve will direct the Department of Marine Resources to study the level of stakeholder input involved in the appointment of the Commissioner of Marine Resources and how that input may be expanded. I think it is essential that those with lived experiences always feel that their voice is heard. I hope that this bill will provide an avenue for that to happen, and I am optimistic about the positive impact it can have.

I deeply appreciate your time and am grateful for the opportunity to present this resolve. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.