



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **Tiffany Strout**

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April 14, 2025

Testimony  
In Support of

### **LD 1478 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Baitfish Wholesaler's License**

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts and distinguished members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 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 in beautiful Washington County and I am here today to present my bill **LD 1478 – An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Baitfish Wholesaler's License**

I am presenting this bill on behalf of my constituent who is active in both trapping and selling baitfish. He brought this law to my attention with specific concern related to three parts of the current law; licensing, sucker fish and the marking of the bait trap holes.

When this bill was first discussed with the concerns around licensing, I learned about how bait traps are tended and what the opportunity for others to be of assistance with the collection of fish from the traps may look like. In further discussion with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, there may be a process already in place to address these concerns without legislative action. With this new information I would like to remove the licensing part from this bill to allow time for further conversations within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the licensing department.

The other two items would remain in the bill. One is to remove the current size limit on sucker fish that is in place from April 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year and would instead make the size of the sucker fish able to be trapped and sold consistent throughout the year.

The final part of the bill would be to make a modification on how the holes are marked around the traps in the ice. It is important to have the holes marked for the safety of others using the area. Currently evergreen boughs are used as well as fluorescent biodegradable tape. This request is just to remove the addition of the fluorescent biodegradable tape to the evergreen boughs.

Thank you for your time today. My constituent is here today to provide more details about his experience with trapping bait fish and I believe someone from the department would be able to answer specific questions about the care of the fish and could answer any questions requiring clarification however, am happy to answer any questions I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink 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)