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I strongly oppose L.D. 142 as should all Mainers. It's a fact that the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife department could use more revenue from hunting licenses which makes giving the department authority to set bag limits biased and troublesome.

The Maine bear hunting season is already long enough at 3 months. Plus Maine is the ONLY state that allows three hunting methods - baiting, trapping and hounding. It's enough.

Before considering an expansion in bear hunting due to a suspected increase in the bear population and human-bear conflicts, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife needs to employ science and study how bear baiting with human food impacts the behavior of wildlife, reproduction, and overpopulation.

The state needs an education and outreach program to teach communities how to coexist peacefully with bears by taking common sense measures to prevent conflict.

Bear baiting allows hunters to dump MILLIONS of pounds of human junk food in the woods to attract bears which may increase bear reproduction and population.

Using bait encourages bears to seek out human food which could contribute to human-bear conflict.

It would be irresponsible to approve a proposal that would increase the amount of time bait is accessible to bears.

The MDIFW has a financial interest in increasing hunting and trapping which results in wildlife decisions that promote short-term economic gain over long-term sustainability, resulting in negative repercussions for Maine's black bears.

Let's do what is right, what is ethical, and oppose L.D.142.

Thank you