

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

IN OPPOSITION TO
LD 944**

**“An Act To Simplify Dual Registration of Snowmobiles and All-terrain
Vehicles”**

Presented by Representative SKOLFIELD of Weld.

Cosponsored by Representative: PICKETT of Dixfield, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

DATE OF HEARING: APRIL 7, 2021

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Landry and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Bill Swan, the Director of Licensing and Registration at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in opposition to **L.D. 944**.

This bill proposes to create a dual registration option for an all-terrain vehicle equipped with tracks to be registered as both an all-terrain vehicle and a snowmobile. People are currently able to register a tracked ATV as both an ATV and a snowmobile if they choose to do so. Research by the Department indicates that only a few hundred tracked ATVs are registered as both an ATV and snowmobile each year. Nearly all of these tracked ATVs are registered as an ATV in the May through August timeframe and then are registered as snowmobiles in the December through February timeframe. They are not registered as both at the same time. There are also another several hundred tracked ATVs that are registered as an ATV or a snowmobile each year, but not as both.

IFW is opposed to this proposed legislation because it would further complicate the registration process and would cost the Department time and money to implement. We would prefer to keep the process as simple as possible. People can already register tracked ATVs as ATVs and/or snowmobiles as they see fit.

Tracked ATVs riding on snowmobile trails are currently relatively few in number. However, because they are much wider than a snowmobile, they do present some safety concerns on snowmobile trails. As tracked ATVs become more popular, this may become more of an issue here in Maine.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.