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**Feb. 9 2021**

**Testimony of Representative Genevieve McDonald**

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources**

**Presenting L.D. 77**

**An Act To Authorize the Department of Marine Resources To Charge an Application Fee for Entering a Lottery for a Scallop License**

Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, I am Representative Genevieve McDonald of Maine House District 134 and am before you today to introduce L.D. 77, An Act To Authorize the Department of Marine Resources To Charge an Application Fee for Entering a Lottery for a Scallop License. I am sponsoring this bill on behalf of the Department of Marine Resources.

The Department of Marine Resources currently uses a lottery method in the issuance of both drag and dive scallop licenses. There is only a minimal \$2.00 fee collected for the use of the online system. This legislation proposes a \$50.00 entry fee. Those monies would be directed to the Scallop Research Fund to help support the continued sustainability of the resource. Additionally, this fee would create buy-in and increase the likelihood that those applying for scallop licenses intend to use them. A scallop license is an opportunity for commercial fishermen to diversify, and latent licenses do little to help support the economy of our coastal communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

District 134 Cranberry Isles, Deer Isle, Frenchboro, Isle au Haut, North Haven, Southwest Harbor, Stonington, Swans Island, Tremont and Vinalhaven, plus the unorganized territory of Marshall Island Township