

Tom Adamo
Penobscot
LD 553

Please consider the following and I respectfully request that a vote NOT to recommend passage is cast by each of you. Thank you for your hard work and the opportunity for me to participate.

1) The title of the bill has "Marine Resources" in it. Does this include all organisms living in the waters? I find this to be non-specific and possibly opens the door to eliminate any and all local controls. Will this eliminate local authority by Shellfish Committees, Alewife Committees and Harbor Ordinances. It certainly, in my opinion, challenges the principles of "Home Rule".

2) Lines 3-5. Catch limits are an important component of sustainable conservation of any species. We certainly do not want anyone to "over-harvest" Remember what happened to the Shrimp, Cod and Halibut fisheries. However, the bill does not explain the specifics of "severe restrictions".

What restrictions are needed? Without this information the bill, in my opinion, is at least alarmist and at most could result in uncontrolled harvesting.

3) Lines 23-25 and 29-32 Would we be breaking or violating any treaties to which we are a party? Might we be disregarding international law? This proposal deletes these issues through its amendments to MRSA 2 as stated on line 18. What litigation might this precipitate for Maine? Is this the best way for Maine to use its resources defending against litigation.

4) Lines 26-28."control all waters within the rise and fall of the tide" This would involve the intertidal zone. Does this overturn Maine's Supreme Court Ruling that the upland owner does own the intertidal zone? (Ross v. Acadian Seaplants) Does this proposed legislation result in "the taking" of the intertidal zone? What are the economic and legal implications of this? "Home Rule" and local control should be maintained.

By no means do I believe I have the answers to the questions I raise, but the questions themselves raise concerns over the unintended and unknown consequences of such a vague proposal. Many years ago, I worked on a lobster boat and as such I support efforts to preserve the fishery, the jobs it creates and Maine's fishing heritage but LD553 is not the way.

Best,
Tom

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