



# Maine Professional Guides Association

55 Morrison Hill Road  
Wilton, ME 04294

[www.maine-guides.org](http://www.maine-guides.org)

## Testimony in Opposition to LD 214

An Act to Create a For-hire Charter Boat Operator License and to Require Individuals Recreationally Fishing for Halibut in Coastal Waters to Register with the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry  
March 6, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Hepler, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here today on behalf of the Maine Professional Guides Association in opposition to LD 214.

Specifically, the Maine Professional Guides Association opposes the provision that requires for-hire charter boat operators license. MPGA believes that current requirements for tidewater fishing guides licenses, as well as United States Coast Guard credentials fulfill regulatory needs adequately. A new, for-hire charter boat operators license seems duplicative, unnecessary, and yet another regulatory fee and framework that small businesses will have to navigate.

That said, MPGA supports these fisheries, and the Department of Marine Resources. While we believe that creating this new license is unnecessary, we are always happy to discuss possible alternatives to real problems with the Department and try to come to reasonable resolutions. We are supportive of providing better data, in a more efficient manner. To that end, we would like the opportunity to work with them to design a process that is less administratively burdensome and allows them to retrieve the necessary data they are looking for.

One idea is that any new license has a limited fee, but that it is effective for multiple years, like a guides license. While we are not committed to this, it is one idea of many that may be worth assessing.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be pleased to answer any questions or follow up with additional information as requested.