

Ethan DeBery
Phippsburg
LD 1561

The lobster fishery needs another mechanism to address folks from fishing beyond their home zone. I fish in zone E where the trap limit has been voted down to 600 traps for conservation and to reduce congestion. Essentially, we took a few cattle out of our field let our grass grow taller and give our cows a little more space. Now our neighbor take a look at our field and say that looks pretty nice and then put half their cows onto our field.

Something's needs to be done to dial this back. Zone lines are imaginary lines in the ocean and are not perfect boundaries of fishing grounds so some overlap is necessary. But fishing half your gear in someone else's pasture is a little much. Maybe folks can still fish half their gear outside their home zone but only a quarter in any other particular zone.

All I know is folks from other zones with higher trap limits fishing in our zone are seriously undermining our conservation effort going from 800 to 600 traps. We need another tool to address this issue and there is nothing in the current legal/regulatory framework to work with.