

John L Painter
14 Richmond Ave
Lewiston, ME 04240
(207) 240-4773
johnlpainter@me.com
www.mainegreencrabs.com

04/14/25

Dear Representatives Golek, Eaton, Farrin, Hepler, Rielly, Simmons, Strout, Thorne,
and Senator Moore,

I wanted to thank you for your support of LD 1503 “An Act to Create a Green Crab Only Wholesale Dealer License”.

My name is John Painter, I live in Lewiston but fish out of Owls Head where I grew up. I’m a part time commercial green crab fisherman and own a small business “Maine Green Crabs” and fully support this bill as a way create some economic opportunity, and assist the still very small but growing interest in green crabs as a food source, both live and processed (eg fish sauce, powdered broth, etc) and to take the next steps in growing the market. I currently sell green crabs to individuals, restaurants and for public cooking/education demonstrations such as with Maine Food and Beverage Education Center in Wiscasset [see attached link]

While my commercial harvester license allows me to sell what I catch, I cannot buy from other fishermen and resell. Currently I have to peddle my catch, at times driving 90 minutes, each direction. And if the they buyer only wants say 20lbs, that’s \$20 at current market rates. It’s a money losing proposition for me, but every time I tell a Chef or someone who wants to buy my green crabs “no” because it’s not worth it, that potential customer has a negative experience. Negative experiences for potential buyers, in a short period of time leads to lack of interest and willingness to utilize green crabs for what ever purpose they had.

Though still a very small piece of the seafood industry in Maine, there is a heart beat for green crabs.

The catch-22 in trying to grow Maine’s green crab market is, the existing Maine seafood dealer license is too expensive for someone like me who only wants to sell green crabs. And for people who already have a seafood dealer license, the market and volume for green crabs is just too small to mess with. The result is a lack of reliability and consistency in Maine for the distribution of green crabs.

A green crab only wholesale license, with the same intent and spirit of the green crab only harvester license, is realistic way to address that distribution issue. Furthermore I believe because green crabs have already caused so much damage in Maine's coastal waters, and that damage is expected to increase, that creates a special incentive for the Maine Legislature to support ways to address their threat using creative and reasonable means that help expand a market, getting them out of our waters and thus mitigating their impact.

The green crab only wholesale license is a low barrier (\$50), economic opportunity focused approach to help bring reliability to the distribution of green crabs to purchasers around the state. I hope when the bill sunsets, green crabs will be profitable enough that seafood dealers will have no problem adding them to the other Maine seafoods they sell.

This bill has the potential to bring net positive economic and environmental impact to Maine and help prime the pump for the next leg in developing a viable green crab market in Maine, and beyond.

<https://www.mainetastingcenter.com/explore-classes/eat-the-invasive-a-collaborative-green-crab-supper>

Thank you,
John L. Painter

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John L. Painter", written over a horizontal line.