

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND  
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
IN SUPPORT OF  
L.D. 1551**

**“An Act To Clarify Fishing Laws between the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources as They Relate to Striped Bass in Inland Waters”**

**SPONSORED BY: Representative NADEAU of Winslow.**

**CO-SPONSORED BY:** Senator DILL of Penobscot and Representatives: FAY of Raymond, MARTIN of Sinclair, MASON of Lisbon, ORDWAY of Standish, PAULHUS of Bath, STEARNS of Guilford, THERIAULT of China, Senator: DAVIS of Piscataquis.

**DATE OF HEARING: April 24, 2019**

Good morning Senator Dill, Representative Nadeau and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Francis Brautigam, Director of Fisheries at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW), speaking on behalf of the Department, in support of **L.D. 1551**.

Department (MDIFW) staff worked with Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) staff to create the mutually agreeable language in this bill that eliminates delays and the need for emergency rule making by MDIFW when DMR changes size and bag limit rules for striped bass, which occur in both tidal and inland rivers. This bill eliminates duplicative rulemaking by prohibiting the fishing or possession of striped bass taken from the inland waters of the State if in violation of rules adopted by the Commissioner of Marine Resources. This efficiency allows changes made by DMR to immediately go into effect without MDIFW having to go through a separate rule making process.

In past years, MDIFW has had to go through rulemaking to adopt DMR’s rules regarding size and bag limits for striped bass. There were issues with the timing of rulemaking as well. Normally, MDIFW goes through a comprehensive rulemaking on fisheries related proposals each summer but regulatory decisions by DMR are not always made prior to MDIFW rule making. This meant that our rules were not always in effect at the same time. This bill creates efficiency and results in implementation of the rule in a timely manner to manage to striped bass size and bag limits.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.