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### Testimony regarding LD 1452

The issue here today is two problems, the green crab and its destructive behavior, and municipalities supporting legislation as a result of false accusations against wormers. So our real issue is what can we do to solve the problem? Fight amongst each other? How productive is that?

We all know Science does not support the blame being placed on worming. The real culprit is the invasive green crab. Legislation to give municipal control to limit worming and implement fines is wrong.

I personally believe without a market to put constant and continued pressure on crabs that we will all see harder times in the near future.

Green crabs could be the largest predation problem of our lifetime. Small green crabs are crawling down clam holes and eating juvenile clams. The mature clams then get dug. The green crab will destroy every species in its path until a market and hard working people put pressure on them. Consider the gain. A new industry creating jobs. Reversal of juvenile clam mortality, and less friction between industries. This could be a big win for our state. Some efforts are already being made including getting schools and volunteers involved. Any effort by ANYONE to stop crabs is a good one toward establishing catch methods and markets. For years the worm industry has helped to support clambers through red tide, water quality closures, and the sudden loss of a municipal clam license. If a law to protect nets is needed we would be in support of that on the state level. Over the last year efforts have been made to work together with municipalities and it was not wormers or clambers who failed to uphold the agreement made with the BMRC, It was the municipal committee. This bill (LD1452) was originally based on over harvesting accusations. In the minutes from BMRCs august 1, 2012 meeting, BMRC committee member Ray Trombley stated there were 3700 worm licenses sold in 2011, and that number had increased by 2000 in 2012. That is 5700 licensed wormers. The actual number in 2013 was 842. Science does not support the claims of clam mortality being caused by worming, and the false number of wormers was overstated by 4858 licenses. This is not just an oversight. At the time of these accusations Green crabs had not even been taken into consideration. In conclusion It is my sincere opinion that LD 1452 should be immediately killed. Thank you.

Daniel Harrington. Town of Woolwich shellfish conservation committee.

**BRUNSWICK MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 1, 2012**

**Members Present:** Chairman Mark Latti, Ray Trombley, Chris Green, ~~Charles Vangau~~  
and Anthony Yuodsnukis

**Staff Present:** MRO Dan Devereaux

A meeting of the Marine Resources Committee was held on Wednesday, August 1, 2012 at Brunswick Station, Room 217. Mark Latti called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**Minutes**

**MOTION BY ANTHONY YUODSNUKIS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2012. SECONDED BY RAY TROMBLEY, APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Reschedule Quahog reseeding**

Reseeding was cancelled due to rain. New reseeding date set for Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at Thomas Point.

**Conservation Closures for 2012-13**

Ray Trombley suggested Thomas Point or Schofield as they have been closed for a while. Dan Devereaux suggested rotating the flats as they have done in the past. Ray Trombley suggested Thomas Point or Schofield and Chris Green suggested Bunganuc. It was decided that Dan would research this further and bring back proposed dates and locations at the September meeting.

**Worm/Clam Conflict**

Dan Devereaux stated that they have noticed that there is an influx of commercial worm harvest on Brunswick clam flats and that there are more bloodworms. Dan stated that Harpswell has also noticed an influx. Dan said that since the spring, worm management has gotten worse so he has set up a meeting with Mark Latti, a town councilor and the commissioner to do something about this. Dan said that what is making this worse is that there is a disease called neoplasia that clams get it; normally the clams recover but when the clams are repeatedly turned and stressed the disease can kill them. Dan stated that Harpswell is having the same issue; as of now Freeport is not and welcomes the diggers. Mark asked how many digging licenses are issued; Dan replied that he has asked Dennis Nault for the exact number and what it has gone up over the last 3 years. Ray Trombley replied that last year there were 3700 and this year licenses have gone up by 2000 diggers. Dan explained some examples of what the State can do to manage this issue. Chris Green spoke about a conversation he had with a commercial digger and stated that overall there are areas that could/should be closed to all diggers for healing and noted that this issue with the worm diggers mind due to the overabundance of licenses. Dan noted