

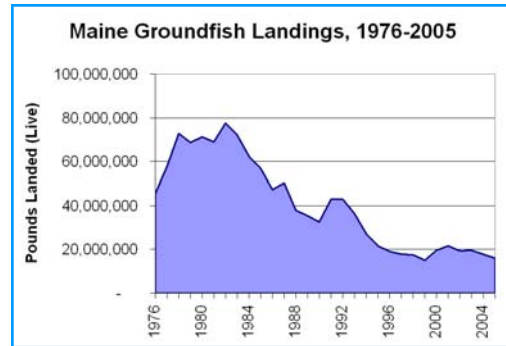


Maine's Traditional Groundfish Industry Is At Risk

A combination of state and federal regulations are resulting in hundreds of Maine job losses, and millions of dollars in economic activity being diverted to other states. Passage of LD170 will stem the losses by matching Maine's lobster bycatch landings rules with those used in all other states.

Maine is the only state to prohibit bycatch lobster landings. From 2000-2005 this ban cost the state:

- **450 fishing trips** worth nearly **\$10 million** in fish from Maine groundfish vessels which was offloaded out of the state.
- Over **350 jobs** providing **\$13 million** in wages
- **\$30 million** in economic activity
- Over **\$1 million** in state tax revenues.



Maine's fleet can no longer afford to forego the additional revenue from the incidental bycatch of lobsters as federal groundfish regulations have reduced harvests. As the fleet migrates southward, Maine's working waterfront—offloaders, fleet provisioners, and seafood processors—is in grave danger of being eclipsed.

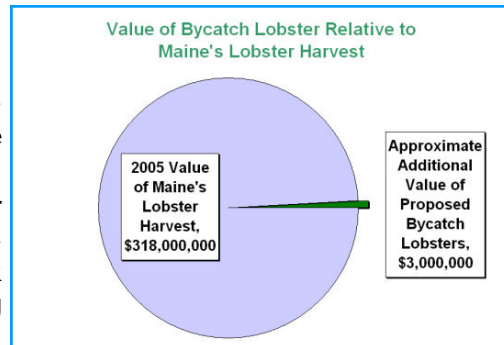
Groundfish Are Recovering and the Catch Will Increase

From a low of 350 million pounds in 1994, groundfish populations have tripled to well over 1 billion pounds today. The federal fishery management plan projects the population will reach 2.5 billion pounds by 2025. Along with increased abundance comes increased catch. The government estimates the value of groundfish landings will rise from under \$100 million today to \$375 million two decades hence. **Every \$1 of groundfish landed in Maine contributes \$2 to Maine's economy.**

LD170 Will Not Impact Maine's Lobster Industry

Bycatch lobster landings from the New England groundfish fleet has traditionally represented about 2% of the total lobster catch. LD170 would impose additional conservation measures on any vessel wishing to land bycatch lobsters in Maine:

- **Oversize lobster would not be allowed.** Bycatch lobster would be subject to the same size restrictions followed by Maine's trap fishery.
- **Bycatch lobsters would be harvested 40 or more miles from shore.** This ensures no lobsters are retained from the inshore broodstock of lobsters, which is responsible for replenishing Maine's coastal lobster population.



Please support LD 170 to preserve our fishing industry, brighten the future of the working waterfront, and bring Maine boats back home.

For more information, please visit: www.betterlobsterlaw.com