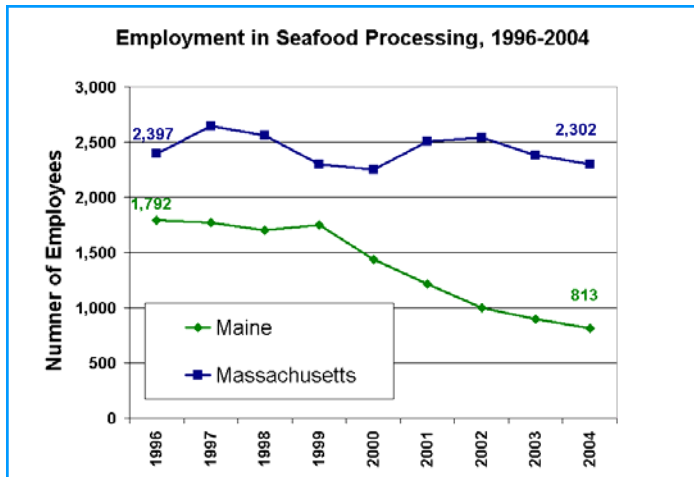


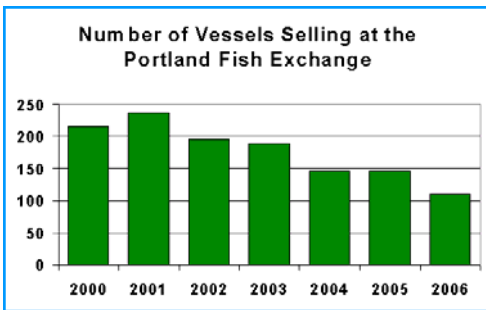


Maine's Traditional Groundfish Industry Is At Risk

A combination of state and federal regulations are resulting in hundreds of job losses, and millions of dollars in economic activity being diverted to Massachusetts. Over the last five years, employment in Maine's seafood processing sector has plummeted by over 50%. Passage of LD170 will help stem the losses by matching Maine's lobster bycatch landings rules with those used in all other states.

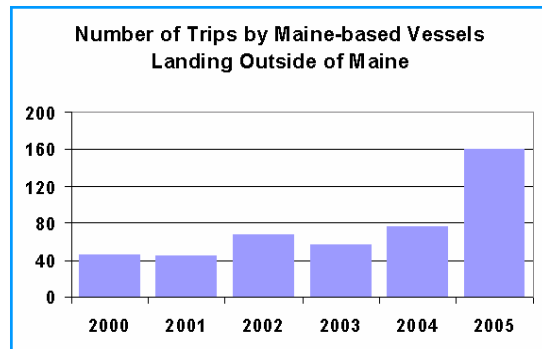


Maine groundfish landings have reached historic lows. The number of vessels unloading groundfish in Maine has dropped from over 300 in the 1980's to barely 100 today. Volume has fallen from 70-80 million pounds a few decades ago to under 15 million pounds today.



Increasingly, traditional Maine-based vessels cannot afford to discard the additional revenue that their bycatch of lobsters provides. Though bycatch lobsters represent just a few percent of total lobster landings, they can add an additional 10%-20% in revenue to a standard groundfish trip. As a result, many of these vessels now divert their trips from Maine to ports in other states.

According to the 2004 Governor's Groundfish Task Force, over 40 Maine processing plants have gone out of business in the last 25 years. Groundfishing gear suppliers have completely disappeared from the state. The Portland Fish Exchange—the anchor of Maine's groundfish industry, handling 90% of the fleet's catch — has lost nearly \$500,000 in the last three years.



"Boats are leaving Maine to fish from and land their catch in Massachusetts on a regular basis," the Task Force report said. "The Maine industry cannot compete against states that aggressively support their fishing industry."

LD 170 will help level the playing field with other New England states by allowing our fishermen to capture additional revenue from bycatch lobsters as other fishermen can.

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