



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN F. SCOTT
FORTIETH DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200
300 CAPITOL AVENUE
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423
John.Scott@housegop.ct.gov

MEMBER
BANKING COMMITTEE
ENERGY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Testimony

In Support of HB 5722 An Act Authorizing the Taking of Certain Oysters That Are Two and One Half Inches In Length Environment Committee March 20, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and members of the Environment Committee. I am Representative John Scott and am here to testify in support of HB 5722 AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF CERTAIN OYSTERS THAT ARE TWO AND ONE-HALF INCHES IN LENGTH.

HB 5722 would modernize our current legislation which was created in a time when all we had was recreational shell fishing beds and before we had any commercial shell fishing operations. Passage would bring us in line and make us competitive with our neighboring states that either do not state a size limit or set the size to a minimum of two and one-half inches.

I represent the town of Groton, a town that has a very active shellfish commission and a burgeoning commercial shellfish hatchery. With the increased popularity of oysters being sold in restaurants this legislation would allow for increased farming without impacting the environment or our natural oyster beds. Because of what oysters do which is filter and clean sea water, increased oyster production would actually be very good for the environment.

Changing the size limitation would be of significant positive economic value to the small business people who own oyster farms in the state. I encourage passage of this bill.

Thank you for your time today