



TOWN OF STONINGTON

SELECTMAN'S OFFICE
ROB SIMMONS
FIRST SELECTMAN

152 Elm Street • Stonington, Connecticut 06378
(860) 535-5050 • Fax (860) 535-1046
rsimmons@stonington-ct.gov

*Testimony of
Stonington First Selectman Rob Simmons
To the
Committee on the Environment
Regarding
Committee Bill No. 226
An Act Authorizing Dual Landings of Fish in the State
February 15, 2019*

Mr. & Madam Chair:

Thank you for allowing me to present my thoughts on Committee Bill 226, LCO Number 3787, regarding the dual landings of fish in the State of Connecticut.

As you may know, the last commercial fishing fleet of any size is located in my home town of Stonington. But this bill has application to and benefits any and all fish processors located up and down the Connecticut coastline.

According to current law, any fishing vessel licensed to fish in Connecticut or federal waters, is required to land those fish in the state of their license according to their state's quota. What this means is that fishermen from New York and Rhode Island who are fishing in Connecticut waters must return to their state of origin to off load their catch. They cannot off load in Connecticut even if we are more convenient to their immediate location.

There are several adverse consequences of this situation.

First, Connecticut dock workers and fish processors do not get the business they might otherwise have if out of state fishermen were off loading fish in Connecticut. This is an adverse and inefficient impact.

Second, the out of state fishermen may waste fuel resources steaming back to their state of origin to off load their catch which they may have taken in Connecticut waters.

Third, the fresh quality of the fish may be enhanced by offloading in Connecticut rather than steaming back to the state of origin of the vessel.

It simply does not make sense for out of state fishermen to be denied the opportunity of offloading at the nearest convenient port of call just because the port is in Connecticut rather than in New York or Rhode Island. This bill gives them that choice if they choose to make it. It is simple common sense.

Thank you for considering this important bill.

#####