

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND  
WILDLIFE**

**IN SUPPORT OF L.D. 47**

**“An Act to Provide an Exception to a Fishing Prohibition near the Crooked  
Brook Dam.”**

**SPONSORED BY:** Representative Mason of Lisbon

**DATE OF HEARING:** February 3, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Liz Latti, Fisheries and Hatcheries Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in support of **L.D. 47**, An Act to Provide an Exception to a Fishing Prohibition near the Crooked Brook Dam.

Construction of a new fishway has recently been completed at the Crooked Brook dam in Danforth. In conjunction with the project, the Town of Danforth is developing a new community park and gathering space adjacent to the new fishway. This location has historically been a popular fishing spot for town residents.

With the completion of the fishway, due to the prohibition within Title 12, Section 12457 the area within 150-feet of an operational fishway is closed to fishing and therefore would restrict fishing at the new community park in Danforth.

This bill was brought forth by the department and it makes an exception to the 150-foot fishing setback around the Crooked Brook Dam fishway which allows fishing closer to the fishway but still prohibits fishing in or from the fishway for safety reasons. This bill proposal will allow continued historical fishing opportunities, particularly for local youth who frequent the site to fish due to its convenient access and location.

This bill would also align Crooked Brook Dam fishway with the other 10 exceptions of the prohibition of fishing in or from the fishway in the state. The Department has coordinated with the town of Danforth and the Department of Marine Resources on this proposal and they are both in support. I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.