**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.