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HB 125

*“An Act relating to membership of the Board of Fisheries”*

The Board of Fisheries decides where, when, and how we fish. For too long, management has struggled to navigate the warning signs:

- declining runs,
- ecosystem shifts,
- more frequent closures.

These point to a system out of balance.

True sustainable management comes from balance:

- between science and lived experience,
- between industry and tradition,
- between use and conservation.

The Board of Fisheries already includes diverse voices, but House Bill 125, restores balance by ensuring equal representation—**two seats for subsistence fishing, two for commercial, two for sport, and one for a fisheries scientist** to the Board of Fisheries.

By formalizing this structure, we reinforce a decision-making process that protects our waters for the generations who will fish them after us.

Balance is not a concession—it is a necessity.