

Michaud Votes to Protect Maine Boaters and Fishermen from Burdensome Regulation

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WASHINGTON, DC

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"Recreational boating and commercial fishing are vital to our state," said Michaud. "Certain wastes that are harmful to our waterways like rubbish and trash remain banned under these bills, but other discharges which have always been allowed like deck runoff will continue to be allowed. Especially now when our fishermen and even our recreational boaters are facing high fuel, prices the last thing we need to do is burden them with unneeded regulations."

S. 2766 will preserve the current exemption from permitting requirements for recreational boats, and includes language Congressman Michaud cosponsored in a similar bill, H.R. 2550, Recreational Boating Act of 2007. S. 3298 places a 2-year moratorium on any permitting of commercial fishing vessels, effectively exempting them for at least two more years, and requires a study of discharges from these vessels in the interim.

Congressman Michaud also has sent letter to the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator calling for any vessel such as recreational boats and most commercial fishing vessels that do not make international

voyages and do not have ballast tanks to be exempted from permitting under any new regulations issued by the agency.

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