

## **Glen Libby**

Thank you. Thank you Governor. Before 2006, or even before that when I started fishing, there were a lot of fish. I feel like I can say that now, there are not, and before 2006, our fishermen were just like any other fishing community. We blamed environmentalists, we blamed the tide, we blamed the moon, denial was our biggest ally, we said there's plenty of fish out there. Finally we decided that wasn't working, because we had seen a steady decline, we were losing boats, I can remember seeing at least a thousand boats off the coast of Maine, and now there are 70 left, and I'm talking about ground fish. In order to fix that, we decided to become part of the process, instead of fighting against it.

We formed our association, out of that grew our co-op, another big thing that was a problem for us was market, so we started our own brand called Port Clyde Fresh Catch, the fishermen had their own ideas about what to do to save the fishery, they finally began to speak about it because the pollution was getting so bad that they had to do something, and with our partners the Island Institute, the Nature Conservancy, and the Gulf of Maine Resource Institute we came up with some really innovative ideas to help the fish stocks recover by changing our gear. I'm pleased to say now that a lot of the ideas we've come up with, are actually being adopted by the New England Fisheries Management Council. Our marketing is going well, we've created at least 25 jobs in Port Clyde where there were none before, and there's more on the way, we're talking about adding a night shift to handle shrimp now.

It is a small company, there's been some hurdles, there are some regulatory things that could maybe go a little smoother, but the future looks brighter than it has in a really long time for us, and in order for this to succeed, we have to stay the course for the fishery regulations. For the first time in my lifetime, and a long time fishing, we're actually controlling the amount of fish that are coming out of the water now, so we're leaving enough so that they will grow back, and that's the first time that I can safely say that that's happened. It needs to continue, we're not blaming anybody anymore, and we've stopped complaining.

Thank you.

Remarks at "Maine People and the Environment" roundtable with Governor LePage  
January 20, 2011 at the Augusta Civic Center  
Event sponsored by the Natural Resources Council of Maine [www.nrcm.org](http://www.nrcm.org)