

James Arsenault, VP of the Independent Maine Marine Worm Harvesters Association

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LD 178

The IMMWA opposes LD 178 based on the makeup of who it requires to collaborate with the DMR in crafting this study. The Georges River Regional Shellfish management committee and its member towns are named as the only collaborators to the DMR in deciding what practices to be used in studying marine worm harvest. It offers no opportunity for the worm industry to represent itself.

Frankly, some members of Georges River Shellfish committees, and a segment of the shellfish harvesters within its member towns, have long shown a strong bias against worm harvesters.

When Dr. Brian Beal conducted his 1990's study of worm and clam harvesting effects in Maquoit Bay, the industries represented themselves respectively. If such a study needs repeating, an unbiased 3rd party drawn from a source of higher academia in collaboration with the DMR, drawing equal input from both the clamming and worming industries, is the only method of study we would even remotely consider supporting.

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