

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources
March 11, 2015

In Support of L.D. 435 “An Act to Extend the Protection of Municipal Shellfish Conservation Programs”

From: Chris Green, Professional Clammer and Member of the Brunswick Marine Resource Committee

Sen. Linda Baker, Rep. Walter Kumiega III, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

My name is Chris Green. I’m a member of the Brunswick Marine Resource Committee and a lifelong professional commercial clammer. I’m also here today on behalf of the Maine Clammers Association. Please accept my written testimony in support of LD 435.

I would like to thank Senator Stan Gerzofsky for submitting legislation that is not aimed at excluding the interests of one fishery over another. Instead, it supports at providing protections to research and conservation efforts that will help us all make better informed decisions in marine resource management.

Maine’s climate has and continues to change. Maine’s commercial shellfish populations are near historic lows and the future looks bleak. Maine clammers are desperate to develop techniques and improve conservation methods that will help them be able to continue feeding their families by adapting to the changes. The already staggering losses to our coastal culture and natural resources based economy will only continue to grow if we continue to do nothing.

Please support LD 435 so we can find ways to rebuild a future for Maine’s shellfish industry.

Respectively,

Chris Green
Brunswick Maine