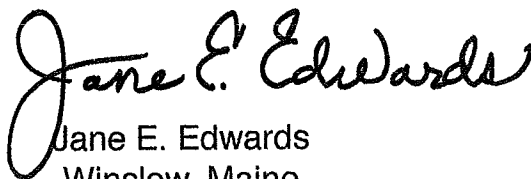


To: Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources
Re: LD493: An Act to Create the Ocean Acidification Council
Public Hearing March 11, 2015

My name is Jane Edwards. I'm retired from the Law and Legislative Reference Library here at the State House. I read the January 2015 report by the Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification ... and found it compelling. The recommendations appear to have been reached after very careful research, and based on good science involving circumstances similar to ours here in Maine. As a matter of fact their work is being recognized by climate change experts from the University of Maine and elsewhere.

My brother lives in a coastal Maine fishing community and tells me that the fishermen are way ahead of the research, due to their personal experience with changes in fishing circumstances. Apparently young people in the community hesitate to make the investment in a boat and necessary equipment and to start working as fishermen because they realize circumstances are changing so fast they may not be able to make a living as their fathers and grandfathers did ... or even be able to pay for their boat and equipment.

Please approve the creation of this Ocean Acidification Council. It is narrow in focus, and addresses the most immediate and urgent questions. This isn't an "academic" research project -- it affects the lives and incomes of not only fishermen and their families but of those to whom their catch is sold, those who sell the catch in stores around the state, and those serve the catch at restaurants and inns all over Maine.


Jane E. Edwards
Winslow, Maine