



March 11, 2015

Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

TESTIMONY LD 493: An Act to Create the Ocean Acidification Council

As a business owner whose livelihood depends upon the health and productivity of Maine's marine waters, and as a member of Maine's Ocean Acidification Commission who participated in writing the recently submitted report, I strongly urge passage of LD 493.

I have observed alarming changes in the chemistry of the seawater we pump into our oyster hatchery over the 30 years we have been in business. The combination of increasing freshwater and CO₂ dissolving in our marine waters from the atmosphere have resulted in conditions that are markedly less favorable to shellfish larvae. We can control the conditions in our hatchery and must now account for the carbonate chemistry of our incoming water at each and every water change for our oyster larvae. Freshwater runoff continues to increase and CO₂ emissions are accelerating. Passage of LD 493 will be an important step in helping us understand these changes, how our marine resources will be affected, and planning for the future.

The OA Commission report provides a truly thoughtful, non-partisan, analysis of the problems we face and recommendations for how to address acidification of our waters. It was produced through the hard work of highly qualified scientists, legislators, as well as representatives from state government, non-profits and industry. The recommendations contained in the report, including the creation of an Ocean Acidification Council, are worthy of your support.

William Mook

Mook Sea Farm