



**TOWN OF FREEPORT, MAINE
TOWN COUNCIL**

RESOLUTION # 37-15

In Support of the Enactment of LD 493, *An Act to Create the Ocean Acidification Council*

BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS Resolve 2013, chapter 110, which became law on April 30, 2014, established a 17 member bipartisan Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and Its Existing and Potential Effects on Species that are Commercially Harvested and Grown Along the Maine Coast;

WHEREAS that Commission's duties included determining what is scientifically known about ocean acidification, what steps are necessary to enhance scientific research and monitoring in that area, to develop mitigation and remediation strategies and to identify what steps could be taken to increase public awareness of coastal and ocean acidification;

WHEREAS the extensive work of that Commission resulted in a comprehensive report issued in January 2015 summarizing the state of the science, research and monitoring efforts on ocean acidification and its potential effects on commercially harvested species along the Maine coast;

WHEREAS a key recommendation of that Commission was to introduce legislation in 2015 to establish an ongoing Ocean Acidification Council to identify, study, mitigate and prevent the direct and indirect effects of coastal and ocean acidification on species that are commercially harvested and grown in the state's coastal and ocean environments;

WHEREAS that legislation, now known as LD 493, *An Act to Create the Ocean Acidification Council*, is expected to be referred soon to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources and scheduled for a public hearing in March of 2015;

WHEREAS the Town of Freeport has a significant economic and environmental interest in the continued long term health and productivity of the coastal and ocean environments and the preservation of its established commercial coastal and ocean harvesting operations;

WHEREAS the Town of Freeport has made significant investments within the Town's jurisdiction to mitigate the effects of biological threats to commercially harvested marine species that are likely resulting from ocean warming and ocean acidification;

WHEREAS scientific research shows that effectively addressing the potentially severe biological impacts of ocean acidification must include statewide and regional efforts as well as local efforts;

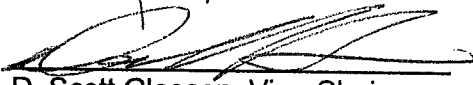
WHEREAS LD 493 establishes Maine as a policy leader in addressing the regional impacts of ocean acidification and will position the state to work in a way that compliments local efforts to mitigate those impacts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Freeport Town Council hereby expresses its strong support for LD 493, *An Act to Create the Ocean Acidification Council*.

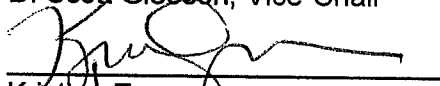
Dated this 3rd day of March, 2015 by the Freeport Town Council:



Melanie Sachs, Chair



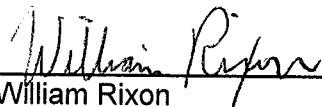
D. Scott Gleeson, Vice-Chair



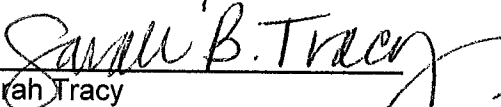
Kristina Egan



James Hendricks



William Rixon



Sarah Tracy



Andrew Wellen