

Chris Baker  
Blue Hill  
LD 2003

Cameron Reny , Pinny Beebe , and members of the Marine Resources committee, my name is Chris Baker and I am a 69 year old retired carpenter living in Blue Hill . I oppose LD2003 . Rockweed harvesting is an intrusive , noisy ,and destructive practice which depletes a vital source of food and protection to countless marine species in our coastal waters . Rockweed provides a habitat for crabs ,small fish, and shellfish which live in the intertidal zone.

For the purposes of exploiting this resource , this act seeks to redefine the term "fishing " to include the harvesting of rockweed . Rockweed is not a fish . The harvesting of rockweed is highly energy intensive requiring the operation of internal combustion engines for long periods of time . These operations have a high carbon footprint to harvest a plant form which is in itself a carbon sink .

The science is not there to understand the long term effects of large scale harvesting of rockweed on our coast.

The Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology 2023 contains a study which raises important doubts about the ability of rockweed to recover from harvesting .

If we allow the denuding of our intertidal zone of it's primary seaweed we will eventually live in an intertidal desert.

Chris Baker