

**Testimony of Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation
to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
regarding LD 2187**

Dear Senator, Representative, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Crystal Canney and I am testifying on behalf of Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation in support of LD 2187. I also respectfully urge the Committee to amend this bill to reclassify Chandler Bay to Class SA marine waters.

Chandler Bay is an ecologically significant coastal system that supports heritage fisheries including lobstering, shellfish harvesting, ecotourism and recreation, and important marine habitats. Class SA designation protects not only marine habitats, but also the industries that depend on Maine's clean coastal waters—including shellfish harvesting, commercial fishing, lobstering, ecotourism, and recreation.

These marine-dependent economies require long-term regulatory certainty that the waters of Chandler Bay will not be degraded over time. Reclassifying Chandler Bay to Class SA would set a clear standard that would protect our heritage fisheries, our traditional working waterfront industries and the booming ecotourism economy of Downeast Maine.

Importantly, water classifications are legislative policy decisions. The Legislature has the authority, and responsibility, to determine which waters deserve the highest level of protection.

Across party lines, Maine has long agreed that clean water is foundational to our economy and identity. Reclassifying Chandler Bay honors that tradition.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask you to amend LD 2187 to designate Chandler Bay as Class SA marine waters.

Very truly yours,

Crystal Canney
Executive Director
Protect Maine's Fishing Heritage Foundation

Crystal Canney
Portland, Maine
LD 2187

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