

February 25, 2025

Chair and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee (ENR)
111 Sewall St., Cross Bldg, Rm
216
Augusta, ME 04333

Subject: Chandler Bay – Water reclassification impact upon lobster industry

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express that I do not support Bill LD 2187 as it does not recommend Chandler Bay for an upgrade from SB class to SA class. I respectfully request that the ENR recommend Chandler Bay for an upgrade to SA class water quality.

As the wife of a 4th generation Jonesport-Beals fisherman, I am writing to express my concern regarding the impact water quality degradation will have upon our vital fishing industry in Jonesport, Maine. Revenue, licensing, and landing reports from 2024-2025 demonstrate our region's heavy dependency on the pristine water quality of Chandler Bay. Any decline in water health threatens the ecosystem, local jobs, and our economy.

Current DMR Zone A reports indicate that there are currently 1,222 lobster fishing licenses and 606,492 tags, with each boat supporting multiple crew members. Preliminary data for the 2024 season shows that Jonesport landed 86,125,724 pounds of lobster, generating over \$528 million in revenue. This performance highlights the community's commitment to sustainable fishing and the preservation of marine resources. The industry further supports a wide range of processing, distribution, and retail jobs essential to our local families.

Given that there are now four (4) years of scientific data on Chandler Bay's water quality, I urge the ENR to consider this new evidence, which supports the fact that the bay is of SA quality. I suggest that Chandler Bay be included in LD 2781 and recommended for an upgrade from SB to SA status.

Sustainable practices must include upholding water quality standards as defined by the Clean Water Act, EPA guidelines, and Maine state laws. As stated in MRS Title 38, section 464, the legislature's intent is to manage and protect surface waters through a classification system based on scientific criteria. A discharge permit should never undermine the triennial review process, nor should external economic conditions. After all, this is about water quality.

I ask the ENR to remain independent and base its decisions solely on current scientific analysis, which strongly indicates that Chandler Bay warrants an upgrade from its current SB class to an SA class.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Carrie Peabody
Jonesport, Maine 04649

References:

[2019-2024 DMR LICENSE AND TAG SUMMARY 4-30-25.pdf](#)

[Maine Lobster Fishing License and Trap Tag Counts | Department of Marine Resources](#)

[LandingsBySpecies.Table .pdf](#)

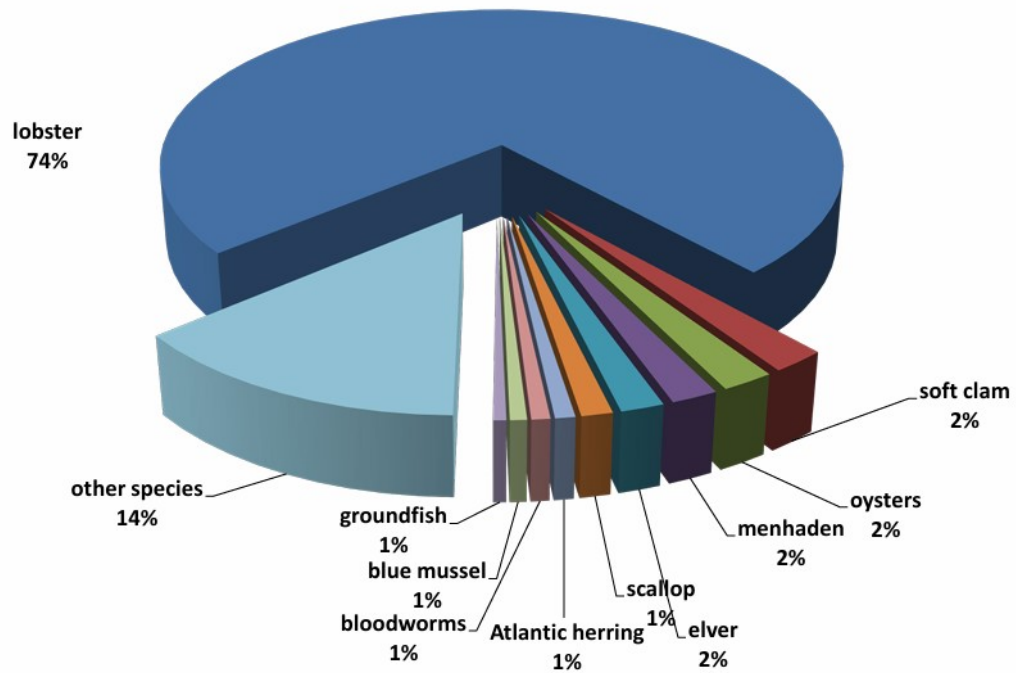
[PoundsBySpecies.Pie .Graph 0.pdf](#)

[ValueBySpecies.Pie .Graph 0.pdf](#)

[Microsoft Word - ME0037559 2021.doc](#)

MRS Title 38, §464. CLASSIFICATION OF MAINE WATERS

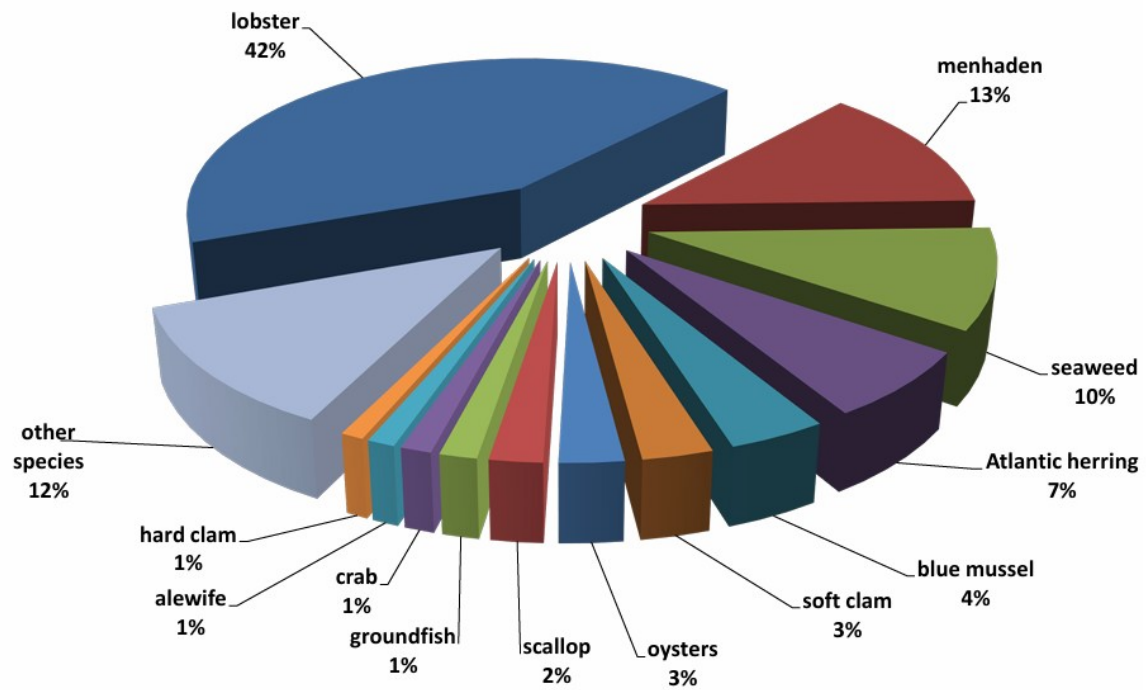
Preliminary 2024 Commercial Maine Landings By Ex-vessel Value
Total: \$709,509,984 as of 2/14/2025



*Other species include confidential species and other species that make up less than 1% of total catch.

Preliminary 2024 Commercial Maine Landings By Live Pounds

Total: 202,791,055 as of 02/14/2025



*Other species include confidential species and other species that make up less than 1% of total catch.

2020-2024* Commercial Maine Landings					
Species	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*
alewife					
Pounds	1,576,645	1,835,855	2,689,400	2,602,355	2,244,673
Value	\$586,668	\$723,291	\$1,184,127	\$1,161,838	\$1,026,532
Atlantic herring					
Pounds	11,537,719	5,029,850	3,822,900	14,741,557	13,607,969
Value	\$4,206,324	\$1,909,398	\$1,846,609	\$4,982,810	\$5,605,070
bloodworms					
Pounds	391,811	301,885	230,526	226,479	189,564
Value	\$6,786,173	\$5,791,124	\$4,937,990	\$5,491,083	\$5,226,066
blue mussel (tot)					
Pounds	9,185,540	8,026,728	5,583,473	5,747,990	7,927,304
Value	\$2,700,386	\$3,406,901	\$4,044,509	\$4,506,481	\$4,675,767
blue mussel (AQ)					
Pounds		1,720,371	1,988,116	2,039,823	2,086,910
Value		\$2,933,567	\$3,675,150	\$4,018,008	\$4,036,254
crab					
Pounds	1,832,196	2,628,580	3,049,155	3,064,571	2,507,252
Value	\$1,017,055	\$1,957,428	\$2,769,593	\$2,041,627	\$1,298,941
elver					
Pounds	9,652	9,106	9,459	9,710	9,842
Value	\$5,067,521	\$16,681,103	\$20,163,965	\$19,508,478	\$12,201,545
groundfish					
Pounds	2,069,377	1,975,980	2,581,734	3,624,233	3,034,020
Value	\$2,185,851	\$2,537,839	\$3,628,452	\$4,196,278	\$3,608,905
hard clam					
Pounds	1,577,697	1,422,763	1,654,924	1,740,115	1,878,534
Value	\$2,368,328	\$3,212,434	\$3,484,298	\$3,435,978	\$3,438,410
lobster					
Pounds	97,954,590	110,704,227	98,985,470	96,957,725	86,125,724
Value	\$412,629,231	\$742,989,021	\$393,277,334	\$482,022,737	\$528,421,645

Carrie Peabody
JONESPORT
LD 2187

Please accept my submission for the public hearing tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. regarding LD 2187. I'm unable to testify in person or on ZOOM.

Please send a confirmation of receipt of my submission.

Thankyou