

LaCroix, Linda M.

From: Hepler, Allison
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 8:05 PM
To: Legislature: Committee on Marine Resources
Subject: Fw: LD 2003 and the Blue Hill Peninsula Rockweed Forum

More input regarding LD 2003.
allison

Allison Hepler
House District 49
Arrowsic, Georgetown, Phippsburg, West Bath and Woolwich

Please be advised that any information sent to me in my capacity as a legislator may become a matter of public record as indicated in the Maine Freedom of Access Act <http://www.maine.gov/foaa.index.htm>

From: David Porter <porterd@uga.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 7:33 AM
To: Hepler, Allison
Subject: LD 2003 and the Blue Hill Peninsula Rockweed Forum

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Dear Representative Hepler,

I am a full time Maine resident of Brooklin with concerns about LD 2003 due to come before the Marine Resources Committee in the next legislative session.

Along with my colleague, Allison Snow, we have formed a volunteer citizens' group, **The Blue Hill Peninsula Rockweed Forum**, that is trying to protect our shoreline from the threat of intensive harvesting and wide-scale damage to rockweed habitats.

Our website is <http://rockweedforest.org>

We invite you to visit our website to view the intrusive rockweed harvesting in and around the Blue Hill Peninsula, primarily related to Acadian Seaplants (filmed in Brooksville, ME - <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/888476909>).

Undoubtedly you are familiar with the many inter-related issues related to rockweed harvesting along the coast, including the interests of Acadian Seaplants LLC and other members of the Maine Seaweed Council. And the fact that the rockweed forest provides an important feeding ground, shelter, and nursery area for many marine species, including alewives, American eel, and Atlantic mackerel.

Like the Maine Rockweed Coalition (<https://mainerockweedcoalition.org/>), we advocate for ecosystem-based management that considers the ecological value of wild rockweed beds, in contrast to focusing only on commercial gains. Scientific publications by industry-employed researchers define sustainability entirely based on what is profitable for commercial companies.

Unfortunately, the DMR's 2014 Rockweed Fishery Management Plan was never implemented or pursued further, so currently the only way to protect rockweed habitats from over-harvesting is via the 2019 Maine Supreme Court decision stating that upland property owners own the rockweed. LD 2003 would contradict this decision.

We will be following the Marine Resource Committee's meetings and we hope you will decide to oppose LD 2003. Thank you for your interest in these topics and all of your work on behalf of the citizens of Maine and our cherished marine environment.

Sincerely,

David Porter

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Allison Snow

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