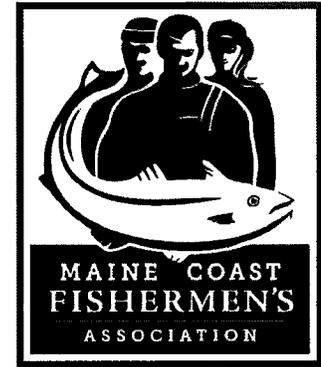


To: Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
From: Emerson Goodrich, Special Project Manager  
Date: April 10th, 2025

**Re: LD 362 - An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Replenish the Land for Maine's Future Program**



Dear Chair Rotundo, Chair Gattine, and members of the Committee On Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association (MCFA) is an industry-based nonprofit dedicated to restoring the fisheries of the Gulf of Maine and preserving Maine's iconic fishing communities for future generations. Founded by Maine fishermen, and represented from Cutler to Kittery, MCFA advocates for collectively developed solutions to complex ecosystem, community, and management problems.

Working waterfront access is severely at-risk in Maine, and MCFA has been working throughout the state to raise awareness and amplify fishermen's voices in decisions impacting this critical infrastructure. **MCFA is in support of LD 362 given the crucial role the Land for Maine's Future program plays in protecting working waterfront from development and decay.**

Maine's working waterfront provides the infrastructure and services necessary for local fishermen to run their day-to-day business operations and makes Maine's \$3.3 billion seafood harvest possible. While the fishing industry is an important economic driver on the coast, Gulf of Maine seafood and the docks and wharves it comes across are also pillars of the local food system, and support healthy communities just as farmlands and pastures do.

Unfortunately, funding for protection of waterfront access is far less abundant than opportunities for conservation and preservation of farmland. Supporting the Land for Maine's Future program goes hand in hand with supporting Maine's fishermen. It is one of very few opportunities that provides funding to businesses, communities, co-ops, and nonprofit to perform desperately needed updates or repairs. Money for infrastructure and waterfront preservation is imperative if we want to preserve the livelihood of one of the most iconic industries in our state.

The Gulf of Maine represents a fantastic economic opportunity for our state, but we need to secure access points to marine resources for Maine's fishermen of today, tomorrow, and forever. Once the working waterfront is gone, it is difficult if not impossible to get it back. **The Land for Maine's Future program has, to date, preserved 30 commercial working waterfront properties and in such, protected the integrity, heritage, culture, and economic lifeblood of many coastal communities.** This program gives fishermen, waterfront businesses, and coastal communities access to resources that are otherwise impossible to find, and serves as an investment in the next generation of Maine fishermen that is sure to pay off.

It is imperative we do not lose sight of the value that preservation, maintenance and investment in the working waterfront has for Maine's future. Thank you for supporting Maine's commercial fishermen by supporting the replenishment of Land for Maine's Future program.

Thank you,

Emerson Goodrich, Special Project Manager  
Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

TOGETHER,  
WE PERSEVERE.

[mainecoastfishermen.org](http://mainecoastfishermen.org)