

Chair Tepler  
Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Augusta, ME

LD 2187 "An Act to Update Certain Water Quality Standards and to Reclassify Certain Waters of the State" (Opposition)

I am a lobster fisherman from Jonesport and have been on and around Chandler Bay all my life. I would like to testify to the health and pristine condition of the area. My house is also on the bay so I see it all the time and in all seasons.

Both Sandy River Beach and Roque Island's Long Sand Beach are highly beautiful white sand beaches which are a little unusual for the area. I've spent a lot of time on each. The clear blue water that floods the Sandy River marshland at high tide can look almost Caribbean, only much colder. Pipers, herons, sea ducks, wood ducks, Canada geese and bald eagles populate the coast along Chandler Bay because the creeks and rivers that flow into it provide plenty of ponds and wetlands close to the ocean for food and nesting ground.

The seafood resources in the bay are also very stable and benefit the surrounding towns constantly without needing maintenance. My grandfather and uncle have both been lobster fishing for seven decades in Chandler Bay and the neighboring Englishman Bay. This year they had great success despite the overall catch of the industry being down. Scallop draggers rush to the bay on opening day every season. Clam diggers work practically year round from Flake Point Bar.

By every metric I'm aware of, the quality and utility of this bay is outstanding and the area has never known any substantial pollution. It is deserving of the elite SA rating in my opinion, if anywhere along the coast of Maine is. I would like to see it considered for addition to this bill.

Respectfully,  
Kelton Beal