

Elizabeth Hall  
Muscongus Bay Aquaculture  
LD 508

In 30 years, we have had 24 studies on aquaculture in the state of Maine. With the majority focused on aquaculture development and regulation. Our current system is one of the strictest in the world, and why regulators come from all over to, learn more about how our state manages its aquaculture industry.

I am in opposition of bill LD508 for a multitude of reasons, but largely due to the DEP being directed to consider on-water aquaculture being subjected to the same regulations as land-based aquaculture. The two ecosystems are incredibly different and purposefully designed to have minimal impact on the surrounding areas. Imposing a "one-size fits all" method of management could result in real, serious, ecological and social impacts and makes no logical sense. Let alone the tax dollars another study will take to organize and execute. With three separate agencies, study commissions, and taking designated resources away from their main purposes. This study is purely politically motivated without thought to the true impacts it could, and most likely will, have if allowed to pass. Not to mention having only 2 of the 17 "stakeholders" coming from the aquaculture industry. How could this study be trusted in the first place, if the vast majority of individuals conducting the study have little to no experience in the aquaculture industry.

To conclude, I strongly oppose bill LD508.