

Amanda Moeser  
West Bath

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Amanda Moeser and I own and operate a small-scale shellfish farm in Casco Bay in between Yarmouth and Freeport. I also have a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife and M.S. in Conservation Biology. I am generally unaware of the history and debate surrounding the use and noise levels emanating from airboats in Casco Bay; however, I do spend a significant amount of time on the water in both summer and winter months and frequently encounter sources of noise and light pollution.

My perspective on the water is the reverse of most of those testifying before this committee-- I hear the sound that is emanating from the shore out to sea. I occasionally hear airboats, and at times regularly hear airboats heading out with the tide from nearby Winslow Park and South Freeport Harbor. More regularly though, I hear traffic on Interstate 295 and the sound of lawn mowers and weed whackers emanating from shore on a daily basis in the summer months. Riding lawn mowers average around 90 dBA and weed whackers hover somewhere around 96 dBA, according to statistics provided by the University of Florida's Hearing Conservation Program (HCP).

If this argument was truly centered around disturbance to wildlife and ALL people, it would seem prudent to me to adequately identify and measure all sources of sound pollution from motorized equipment ranging from commercial and recreational boating to construction and lawn care activities, rather than target a small and isolated group of users who rely on airboats to access shellfish resources. I respectfully request that you weigh my testimony alongside that of others in your decision-making process.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Moeser