

Ethan Bien  
Lubec

Done right, aquaculture offers certain opportunities that are not to be missed. Certain species, like oysters, are excellent aquaculture products. Unchecked, however, Aquaculture has the potential to do egregious harm to the oceans of Maine, and will come into certain conflict with our fishers. In Gouldsboro, a recent application for over 100 acres of salmon fish pens has been submitted to the Department of Marine Resources. There are concerns there from lobstermen, environmentalists and Maine residents who have lived near the bay for generations

The DMR's current policy seems to be to rubber stamp everything aquaculture-related: 95% of permits are being approved. It is time to pump the brakes and take a second to talk about what we want our coastline to look like in a hundred years. What balance of working waterfront, wild fishing, tourism, and aquaculture is ideal, and gives the best opportunity for a good life for our residents and visitors?

It is high time for Maine to review its rules and regulations to reduce conflict between lobstermen, aquaculturists and other stakeholders. I am concerned, in particular, about the scale of the aquaculture projects coming into Maine and creating conflict on the working waterfront.