

I am a year-round resident of Deer Isle, a natural history writer with an MS in Biology but my real qualification to testify is that I have been following the development of shellfish aquaculture for some years. I have been so pleased at how Maine is moving forward to develop sustainable practices that I recently wrote a cookbook, *Recipe Ideas for Farmed Sea Scallops - the whole story*. I did this with fisherman Marsden Brewer. I am aware that my Island fisherman friends have made an effort to contact directly DMR and legislators to explain why this bill should NOT PASS. Please listen to their genuine experience. Vote this down. Continue to work on wise legislation that assures Maine's place in developing aquaculture in a way that assures the future of proper scale, locally owned, ecologically sound practices. Just as lobstering- its boats and pots- has become viewed as a positive aspect of our scenery, so Maine aquaculture has this potential. Don't allow this inappropriately-worded legislation to make it harder for shellfish farmers to operate. The economic stability of our coastal communities depends on your listening to wise Maine voices rather than selfish short-sighted interests.