

April 13, 2021

To: Joint Committee on Marine Resources

RE: LD 1146: "An Act To Protect Maine's Ocean Waters and Support Regulatory Oversight and the Long-term Health of the Aquaculture Industry"

Representative McCreight, Senator Miramant, and other members of the Joint Committee on Marine Resources:

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 1146.

LD 1146 was well described in Representative Alley's recent op ed in the Bangor Daily News: "The bill calls for a statewide conversation with all stakeholders, not just the traditional voices and well-paid special interests...Our waters are a public resource, and elected officials must consider Maine's waters in a thoughtful way instead of a hasty economic dash that hurts Maine.

It's time for us to step back and decide what we want our waterfront to look like in the future, review the regulations and determine what is best for all who work, live and recreate on the water. We have an opportunity to get this right. Let's do it."

<https://bangordailynews.com/2021/04/11/opinion/contributors/we-need-better-laws-for-sharing-the-sea/>

Another way of saying that we must "consider Maine's waters in a thoughtful way" is to say that it is time for Maine to use marine spatial planning (MSP):

"Marine spatial planning (MSP) is a process of analyzing and allocating parts of three-dimensional marine spaces (or ecosystems) to specific uses or objectives, to achieve ecological, economic, and social objectives that are usually specified through a political process. MSP is a process that is: ecosystem-based (balancing ecological, economic, and social goals and objectives toward sustainable development)..."

And

MSP is used "to analyze and assess the need for ocean space by current and future human activities...assess the cumulative impacts in space and time of current and future economic developments on ecological processes in ocean areas and their resources."

<http://msp.ioc-unesco.org/about/msp-facts/>

The key phrases in that description are "**cumulative impacts**", "**current and future economic developments**" and "**ecological processes in ocean areas**".

Just as the state is being very deliberate about planning for climate change and making that a state priority, marine spatial planning should also now rise to the top of the state's priority list, especially now that the scale of projects in state waters has ramped up.

In my view, Maine is way overdue for using marine spatial planning tools to manage uses of the ocean in state waters. The conflicts that proposals for large scale aquaculture project are creating is a sign that it is overdue.

Please vote "ought to pass" for LD 1146.

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