

James West
Sorrento

Senator Miramant, Rep. McCreight, and members of the Marine Resources Committee. My name is James West and I fish for lobsters, scallop, shrimp and seine. I am submitting written testimony as I am currently offshore – working but wanted to submit testimony on LD 1146. I am fully supportive of LD 1146. This bill calls for the state to do its job when it comes to planning for Maine's ocean. There is a place for smaller aquaculture, there is a place for lobstering, there is a place for those who enjoy the ocean. What we have now for rules and regulations around aquaculture is a joke. How is it that we are allowing anyone to literally own up to 1,000 acres of the Maine coast? How is this possible? How is it that despite efforts to bring attention to an issue that is disturbing to many lobstermen that we continue to ignore what is happening. Net pen salmon like what is being proposed in Gouldsboro will impact the environment - net pen salmon further downeast already have. I believe LD 1146 is a good starting point and a chance for elected leaders to do something positive and revisit what has happened. This is a serious problem. It's time to do something. I would like to be here today but I am scalloping out of state.

Sincerely,
James West
Fisherman, Sorrento