

Carol Chappell
Bar Harbor

Hello,

I am Carol Chappell, a year round resident of the downtown area of Bar Harbor. We have a nice little victorian neighborhood and the children growing up here hope to enjoy the clean waters of Frenchman Bay for generations to come. I taught third grade in Bar Harbor for 30 years. Every spring my third graders and I stenciled "Dump No Waste, Drains To Bay" next to storm sewer grates. The health of the waters of Frenchman Bay are of utmost importance to our community which relies heavily on traditional fishing, tourism, and scientific research institutions for our livelihoods. I am here in support of LD 1211.

LD 1211 will set up a study group to explore avenues to develop regional input into decisions being made about the use of or coastal waters. The waters of Frenchman Bay are surrounded by at least 7 different municipalities. Each has different governing authority over different parts of the bay. But the waters of the bay do not stop at municipal boundaries. One town's choices of water use effects all the rest of the bay and it is important to have some kind of regulatory oversight for the whole bay into which each municipality has decision making input.

There have been several recent Bar Harbor issues that demonstrate the need for broader oversight of the waters of Frenchman Bay. Currently, there is a proposal to build an industrial scale salmon farm in the bay. One set of 15 pens could be placed next to Bald Rock, owned by the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Society. A second set could be next to Long Porcupine Island which is owned by Acadia National Park. The pens are in close proximity to Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park but it is the Town of Gouldsboro that has jurisdiction over those waters and therefor Bar Harbor and the park have no official input into potential licensing of this site.

There was a similar situation back in 2017. There was a plan put forth in Bar Harbor to build a berthing pier for cruise ships. It was felt, by some folks, that having a port authority would help expedite this process. This port authority legislation would have opened the full Bar Harbor coast line not only to cruise ship berthing piers but also to commercial shipping. Many folks around the bay felt this was an inappropriate use of the waters that support traditional fishing and tourism activities, but it was the Town of Bar Harbor that would ultimately have had the power to vote on the proposal had the governor not vetoed the legislation.

I strongly support LD 1211 because it sets up a group of stakeholders who will explore options to help the communities adjacent to a body of coastal water have input as to how those waters will be regulated, and protected.

Thank you.