

May 4, 2021

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources
Cross Building, Room 206
Augusta, ME. 04333

Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources:

My name is Ben Hamilton, and I am the co-owner of Love Point Oysters, a small oyster farm in Casco Bay. I would like to express my strong opposition to LD 1211. It is eerily familiar to LD 1146 in terms of the detrimental impact it would have on our business and the greater aquaculture industry. The establishment of regional management authorities would stifle the current leasing process and make it even harder to build an aquaculture business in Maine. Further, regionalization would decrease DMR's ability to ensure consistent and fair management of state waters and resources, and place a tremendous strain on DMR staff time as they engage with multiple "bay management" groups. Maine needs legislation that helps aquaculture, not stifles it. Please vote Ought NOT to Pass on LD 1211.

Respectfully,
Ben Hamilton