

Jordi St John  
West Bath

I, Jordi St. John owner of Merritt Island Oysters oppose LD 1211 because it will put all the hard work I have done to build my business at risk.

LD1211 is another attempt to attack the state's working waterfronts. Anti-aquaculture interests are using the legislature to harass hardworking small business owners who are trying to make a living on the water.

The makeup of the commission ensures that commercial working waterfront interests, including commercial fishing and aquaculture, will be in the minority and intentionally marginalized.

The establishment of regional management bodies that structurally discriminate against working waterfront interests will effectively allow wealthy coastal communities to establish "gated communities" where working waterfronts are not welcome.

Maine's working waterfront communities face many challenges, but aquaculture is not one of them. Aquaculture has been part of Maine's working waterfronts for over 40 years. State agencies and the legislature's resources should be focused on the serious threats including right whales, climate change, and offshore wind.

I support MAA and the efforts to find constructive solutions that address concerns while allowing Maine aquaculture businesses to grow.