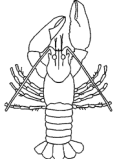


The Lobster  Conservancy

Striving to sustain a thriving lobster fishery through science, education, and community engagement

Diane Cowan
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February 1, 2024

Sen. Cameron Reny, Chair
Rep. Allison Hepler, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

Re: Testimony against LD 2065

Dear Senator Reny, Representative Hepler, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources,

The Lobster Conservancy, which conducts science in support of a thriving lobster industry, recognizes that the entirety of Maine's coastal and offshore waters support habitat for lobsters.

All of Maine's estuarine, coastal, and offshore waters are at risk of hazards that occur when aquaculture projects run amok. I suspect that the best way to prevent the existence of disadvantageous or harmful aquaculture projects is to have Aquaculture Laws that are meaningful, well enforced, and acceptable to Maine people.

Based on the apparent lack of a plan for oversight of how aquaculture projects will be monitored and how laws will be strictly and frequently enforced, the risk factor for harm to Maine's lobster and their habitats - not to mention the rest of the inhabitants of the Gulf of Maine - appears to be high.

Therefore, I oppose LD 2065.

Thank you for considering the lobster.

Sincerely yours,
Diane F. Cowan, Ph.D.
President