



Maine Rockweed Coalition

A 501c3 non profit based in Washington
County, ME

PO Box R, Pembroke ME 04666

mainerockweedcoalition.org

6 March 2025

TESTIMONY NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

LD 553

Senator Tepler, Representative Hepler, and distinguished members of the Maine Resources Committee:

I submit this testimony on behalf of the Maine Rockweed Coalition. I am Executive Director and a Pembroke resident.

LD 553 is hard to understand because of the lack of definition of terms, and could have unintended consequences as written, if passed into law.

POINT ONE:

§2. Offshore waters and submerged land

1-A. Territorial waters. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State owns and may exercise jurisdiction over and control all waters within the rise and fall of the tide seaward 12 nautical miles; and....

We assume “all waters within the rise and fall of the tide” does not include the intertidal zone, the land under the waters “within the rise and fall of the tide”. The intertidal zone is privately owned by law in Maine, since the 17th century. The state does not own this area of the coast.

POINT TWO:

§2. Offshore waters and submerged land

2-A. - Harvesting

The State of Maine declares that it owns and controls the harvesting of the living resources of the seas adjoining the coastline...

We assume that the language “living resources of the sea adjoining the coastline” does not include the rockweed in the intertidal zone. Rockweed is privately owned by the owner of the intertidal zone by [Maine Supreme Court decision](#) (Ross v Acadian Seaplants, 2019).

SUMMARY: If the language of this bill includes state ownership of either the intertidal zone or intertidal rockweed, both of which are private property, then it appears that this bill if law would represent a taking of private property. Terms in the bill should be clearly defined, we believe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Hadlock Seeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Robin Hadlock Seeley, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Maine Rockweed Coalition