

Daniel Devereaux  
Brunswick  
LD 1595

Daniel R. Devereaux  
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In Support of LD 1595, “An Act to Strengthen Working Waterfronts Against Nuisance Complaints Regarding Aquaculture”

Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources,  
My name is Daniel R. Devereaux, and I serve as the Coastal Resource Manager for the Town of Brunswick. My family also co-owns Mere Point Oyster Company, and I represent Maine on the Board of the East Coast Shellfish Growers Association. I submit this testimony in strong support of LD 1595.

LD 1595 brings current statutes in line with the realities of Maine’s working waters and waterfronts. Shellfish farming, like other fisheries referenced in Section 1. 17 MRSA §2807, sub-§1, ¶A, typically takes place in nearshore waters. By adding aquaculture to this section of Maine law, the state affirms its commitment to protecting all working people on the coast equally—with the same legal safeguards already afforded to traditional fishermen and fisheries-related businesses.

Making a living on the water is already challenging. Requiring fishermen, farmers and state agencies to spend time, money, and resources addressing frivolous complaints—often about practices that are routine and essential to our work—is unreasonable. It’s akin to calling the police every time a Harley-Davidson drives down your street.

For these reasons and more, I support LD 1595 and its effort to ensure equitable treatment for all who work Maine’s coastal waters.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel R. Devereaux