



Save Our Shellfish and Coastal Economies from Ocean Acidification

Ocean acidification has the potential to significantly harm Maine's shellfish and economy. We must research, monitor, and plan to mitigate the damage before it is too late.

"We need to get on top of this now before our kids inherit this problem and it's too late to fix it or adapt."
-Dave Cousens, Maine Lobstermen's Association

Our oceans are becoming more acidic, and Maine's shellfish are in danger

- Ocean waters off the coast of Maine have already experienced a nearly 30% increase in acidity.
- Maine's juvenile clams are literally dissolving away, and larvae are avoiding the more acidic mudflats.
- Oyster hatcheries on the west coast have already experienced seasonal production losses of 60-80% due to acidification.
- Recent science indicates that juvenile lobsters will develop thicker shells, and stunted growth.
- Ocean acidification is caused by increasing amounts of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions being absorbed by oceans, and coastal runoff pollution.



Over a billion dollars of economic activity and thousands of Maine jobs are at risk

- Maine is more dependent upon its marine resources than any other state in the northeast.
- Our top two fisheries (lobsters and clams) have nearly 6,000 active harvesters whose jobs are directly threatened.
- The Gulf of Maine waters have already been identified by researchers as being more susceptible to ocean acidification than other regions on the eastern seaboard.

We can protect our shellfish and coastal jobs, but we must act now



- There are many actions we can take to mitigate acidification—protect seagrass beds, reseed our clam-flats, reduce polluted runoff—but we must understand the threat better to know what is the right course.
- LD 1602 helps us understand the threat. It takes a responsible and low cost approach to a major environmental crisis; it creates a panel of experts from all sectors of the marine community to study the problem and recommend solutions.
- If we better understand the impacts of acidification on commercially important marine species, coastal Maine communities can prepare before it is too late.

The Legislature should pass LD 1602:

Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study the Effects of Ocean Acidification and Its Potential Effects on Commercial Shellfish Harvested and Grown along the Maine Coast

For more information, please contact Ivy Frignoca, (207) 210-6439 x 5011 or ifrignoca@clf.org

The logo for the Environmental Priorities Coalition features the text "Environmental Priorities Coalition" in white, bold, sans-serif font on a blue background. To the right of the text are three stylized mountain peaks in shades of green and yellow, set against a light blue wave-like base.

**Environmental
Priorities
Coalition**

Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 28 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine's economy can thrive.

350 Maine	Maine Lakes Society
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine People's Alliance
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Rivers
Conservation Law Foundation	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
ENE (Environment Northeast)	Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Environment Maine	Product Policy Institute of Maine
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Maine Audubon	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society
Maine Council of Churches	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	