

PROTECT CLEAN WATER IN MAINE

LD 1832 will protect Maine's rivers, lakes, and streams with critical funding to manage pollution discharges.

Clean water is a vital part of living and working in Maine, supporting commercial fishing, tourism, high-tech industries, and waterfront communities alike.

- The tourism industry is dependent on clean water. People come to Maine to fish, boat, and swim in our waters because they are among the cleanest in the nation.
- Maine's semiconductor industry cites clean water as a major reason for locating here, as do craft brewers and lake- and river-based tourism businesses.
- New aquaculture businesses are locating in Maine because clean water is critical to their business, and keeping Maine's clam flats open depends on clean water.

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing this bill to support the staff who play a vital role protecting our clean water.

- DEP staff oversee hundreds of facilities that discharge pollution into state waters.
- Through the Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (MEPDES), these staff process licenses, monitor compliance, provide technical assistance, and monitor and model water quality.
- Without these DEP staff to ensure compliance with clean water protections and provide technical assistance to dischargers, our clean water would degrade quickly.

DEP has not increased fees for discharging facilities since 2008.

- At the same time, federal sources of funding for DEP have been flat, resulting in unfilled positions and increased workload.
- DEP staffing costs have also increased due to inflation and rising health insurance premiums.
- Enacting LD 1832 with a necessary fee increase for facilities that directly discharge into state waters will keep the MEPDES program solvent through at least Fiscal Year 2026.



Photo @ Casco Bay Estuary Project

SUPPORT CLEAN WATER IN MAINE. SUPPORT LD 1832.

For more information, please contact Nick Bennett, Natural Resources Council of Maine at 207-430-0116, nick@nrcm.org

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 communities can thrive.

