

June 19, 2026

State of Maine
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Quality Management
State House Station # 17
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Subject: Comment re: Kingfish Maine Permit Renewal Appl #ME0037559 / Waste Discharge License W009238-6F-A-N

To the Director of DEP and its Division of Water Quality Management,

My name is Carrie Peabody and my husband Gregory is a 4th generation fisherman. As concerned citizens and members of the coastal community we wish to express opposition to the Kingfish Maine Discharge Permit / Waste Discharge License. We have outlined some of the likely impacts the discharge will have on the lobster fishery and the wider marine economy.

Summary of concern

- Allowing increased discharge into Chandler Bay risks worsening water quality in areas where lobsters live, feed and reproduce.
- Poorer water quality would likely reduce lobster health, growth and survival, and could make lobster gear less effective.
- Harm to the lobster fishery will ripple through the local economy — affecting fishers, processors, suppliers, restaurants, and families who depend on the industry.

Why this matters

- Lobsters depend on clean, well-oxygenated water and stable habitats (rocky bottoms, eelgrass, etc.). Pollutants and changes in water chemistry can make lobsters weaker, reduce juvenile survival, and increase disease.
- Chandler Bay connects to areas where many fishers set traps and where young lobsters settle. Even changes that seem small can reduce catch sizes over time.
- The lobster industry supports many jobs and small businesses in our region. If catches fall or lobsters become less valuable, it hurts families who rely on this income and reduces money local businesses earn.

Specific likely impacts

- Lower catches: Reduced lobster abundance or size would decrease how many lobsters fishers can legally and economically harvest.
- Higher costs: Fishers may need to travel farther or fish longer to make the same income, increasing fuel, time, and gear costs.
- Processing and market losses: Fewer landed lobsters mean processors and buyers have less product, which can cause layoffs or reduced hours.
- Damage to eelgrass and other habitats can lower biodiversity, affecting other shellfish and finfish important to our community.
- If water quality problems are discovered, buyers and restaurants may pay less or avoid our region's product, lowering prices.

Requests and suggested actions

- Delay approval until an independent, transparent environmental review is completed that specifically evaluates impacts on lobster habitat and industry.
- Require rigorous, longterm monitoring of water quality, sediment, and lobster health before, during, and after any discharge begins, with results publicly available.
- Set strict, enforceable limits on pollutant levels tied to thresholds known to protect lobster habitat and juvenile survival.
- Include an adaptive management plan. If monitoring shows harm, the permit must be suspended or modified immediately.
- Provide compensation and support plans for fishers and processors if harmful impacts occur (funding, alternative livelihood programs, or buyouts).
- Fund local science: support baseline studies on lobster populations, juvenile settlement areas, and habitat mapping so decisions are based on local data.
- Require best available treatment technology for any discharge and minimize flow during sensitive periods for lobsters (e.g., molting of juvenile settlement seasons).

In Closing

Our fishing community in Jonesport depends on a healthy marine environment. The Kingfish Maine discharge permit for Chandler Bay poses many risks to lobster populations and to the people and businesses they support. We urge regulators to put precaution and local livelihoods first by delaying approval, requiring stronger protections and monitoring, and ensuring clear, enforceable remedies to prevent harm.

It is important to prioritize local livelihoods and the long-term health of Chandler Bay's marine environment. We ask that the Maine DEP deny the Kingfish permit, review the RAS technology against best practice technologies, and ensure stronger protections and monitoring mentioned above are in place.

Thank you for considering our comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

Carrie & Gregory Peabody
P.O. Box 9
Jonesport, Maine 04649

Sources:

Maine's Waters at Risk inside the rise of Industrial Fish Farming <https://www.jurist.org/commentary/2025/10/maines-waters-at-risk-inside-the-rise-of-industrial-fish-farming/> Jurist News Oct 27, 2025

Kingfish Zeeland details plans for new US RAS yellowtail farm in Jonesport, Maine

<https://www.seafoodsource.com/news/business-finance/kingfish-zeeland-details-plans-for-new-us-ras-yellowtail-farm-in-jonesport-maine> November 21, 2019

NOAA Letter - Lois A. Chiarella, June 6, 2022

https://d23h0vhsm26o6d.cloudfront.net/220606_GARFO-to-USACE-Kingfish-Land-based-Aquaculture_2023-07-24-143127_hadw.pdf

Maine Commercial Landings 2025 : [Most Recent Maine Commercial Landings | Department of Marine Resources](#)

<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/fisheries/commercial/landings-program/landings-data>

Maine 2025 Landings Information

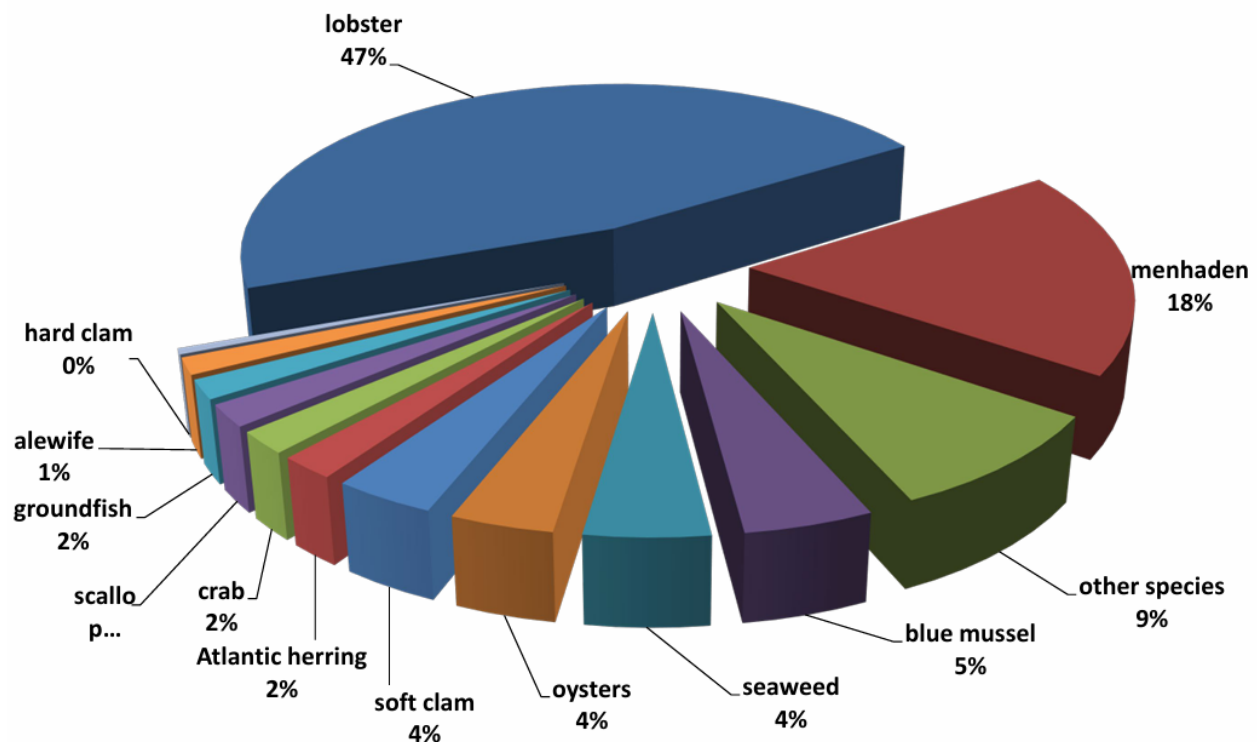
[Most Recent Maine Commercial Landings | Department of Marine Resources](#)

1. Preliminary 2025 Commercial Maine Landings by Live Pounds

[PoundsBySpecies_Pie_Graph.pdf](#)

Preliminary 2025 Commercial Maine Landings By Live Pounds

Total: 169,400,803 as of 02/06/2026



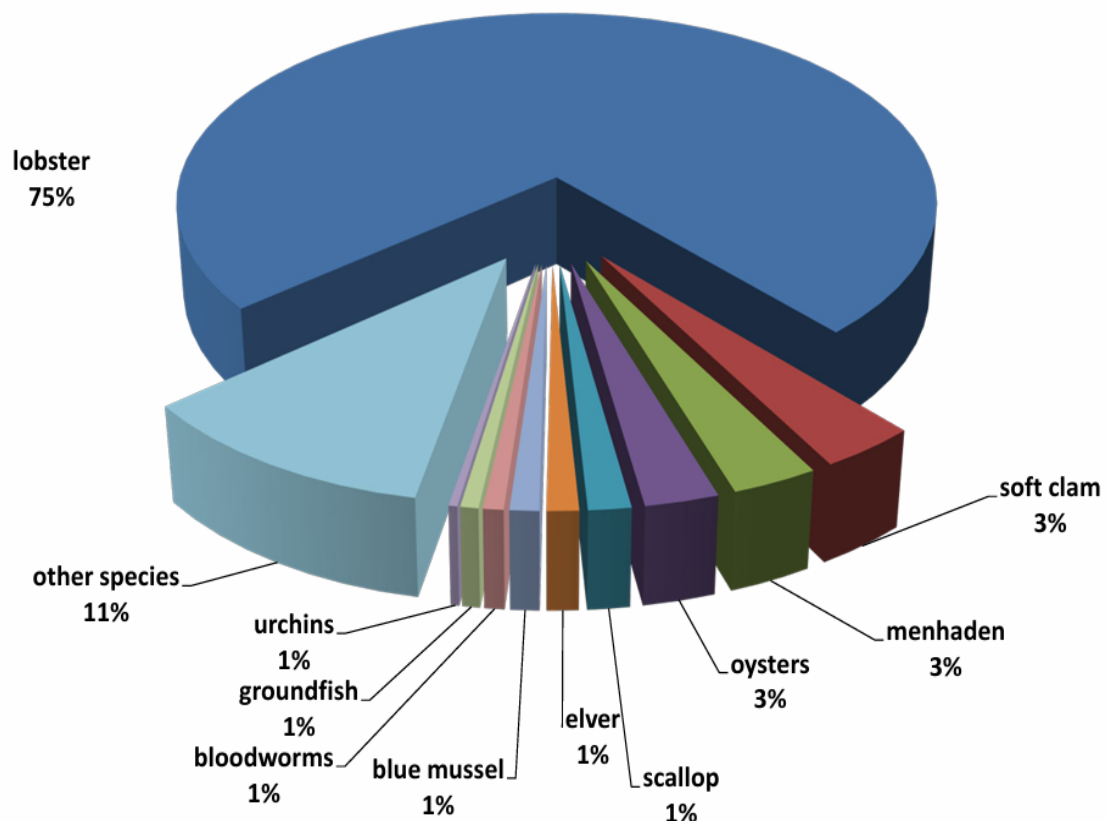
*Other species include confidential species and other species that make up less than 1% of total catch.

2. Maine Preliminary 2025 Commercial Maine Landings by Ex-vessel Value

[Maine 2025 Landings \(value\) by Species - pie chart](#)

Preliminary 2025 Commercial Maine Landings By Ex-vessel Value

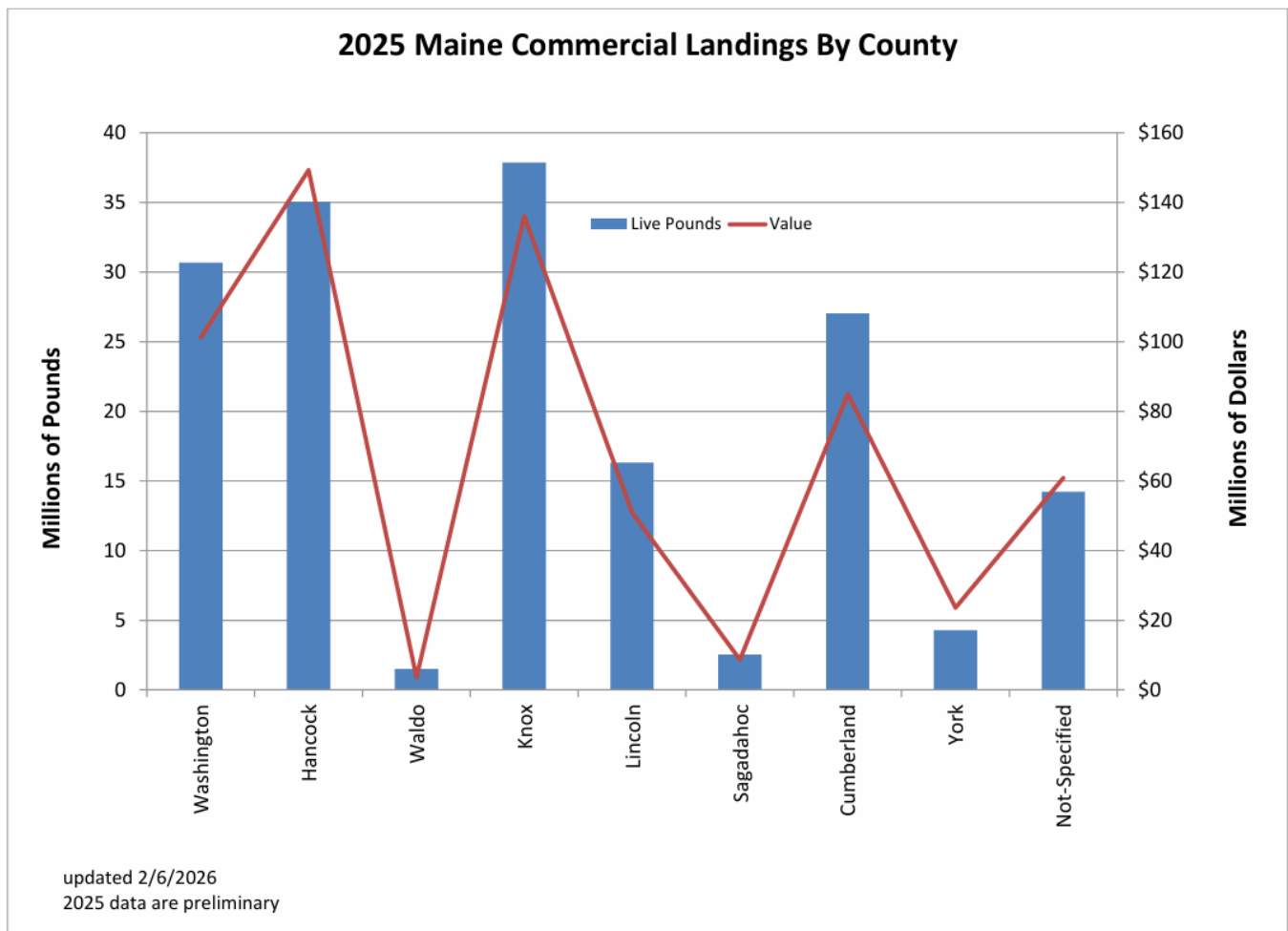
Total: \$619,053,489 as of 2/6/2026



*Other species include confidential species and other species that make up less than 1% of total catch.

3. 2025 Maine Commercial Landings by County

[ByCounty_Graph.pdf](#)



4. 2021 – 2025 Commercial Maine Landings

[LandingsBySpecies_Table.pdf](#)

2021-2025* Commercial Maine Landings						
Species		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
alewife						
	Pounds	1,835,855	3,301,550	3,207,995	2,511,793	2,512,865
	Value	\$723,291	\$1,534,276	\$1,565,998	\$1,158,022	\$1,239,178
Atlantic herring						
	Pounds	5,029,850	3,822,900	14,516,557	13,988,489	3,442,140
	Value	\$1,909,398	\$1,846,609	\$4,884,710	\$5,769,410	\$1,603,848
bloodworms						
	Pounds	301,885	230,526	226,479	186,418	148,856
	Value	\$5,791,124	\$4,937,990	\$5,491,083	\$5,168,203	\$4,429,881
blue mussel (tot)						
	Pounds	8,026,728	5,583,473	5,742,364	7,928,051	7,831,844
	Value	\$3,406,901	\$4,044,509	\$4,506,097	\$4,678,367	\$6,369,469
blue mussel (AQ)						
	Pounds	\$1,720,371	1,988,116	2,039,823	2,086,878	2,630,857
	Value	\$2,933,567	\$3,675,150	\$4,018,008	\$4,034,204	\$5,639,078
crab						
	Pounds	2,628,580	3,049,306	3,065,536	2,635,859	3,352,585
	Value	\$1,957,428	\$2,769,650	\$2,042,662	\$1,409,554	\$1,671,656
elver						
	Pounds	9,106	9,459	9,710	9,878	7,797
	Value	\$16,681,103	\$20,163,965	\$19,508,478	\$12,235,144	\$6,950,392
groundfish						
	Pounds	1,975,980	2,581,734	3,624,171	3,034,893	2,881,803
	Value	\$2,537,839	\$3,628,452	\$4,195,817	\$3,611,633	\$3,913,059
hard clam						
	Pounds	1,422,763	1,656,853	1,740,115	1,559,758	883,060
	Value	\$3,212,434	\$3,485,925	\$3,435,978	\$2,898,110	\$1,648,384
lobster						
	Pounds	110,704,227	98,985,319	96,965,544	87,279,523	78,826,683
	Value	\$742,989,021	\$393,277,277	\$482,061,884	\$536,466,702	\$461,384,405
menhaden						
	Pounds	23,933,058	26,198,405	29,198,672	26,735,331	31,394,325
	Value	\$10,315,040	\$14,120,934	\$12,964,187	\$13,768,611	\$18,962,057
other species						
	Pounds	23,851,225	27,744,229	16,153,152	22,528,302	13,660,461
	Value	\$61,366,473	\$89,229,151	\$47,957,140	\$81,595,200	\$57,585,321
oysters (Tot)						
	Pounds	6,033,063	4,209,554	5,108,576	5,614,099	6,243,408
	Value	\$13,532,974	\$11,087,281	\$14,069,220	\$15,613,033	\$16,179,031
oysters (AQ)						
	Pounds	5,240,142	3,916,150	4,799,265	5,372,354	5,627,249
	Value	\$11,326,417	\$10,465,089	\$13,153,560	\$14,903,069	\$14,408,369
periwinkle						
	Pounds	496,166	585,273	366,337	440,719	239,078
	Value	\$821,476	\$937,272	\$514,181	\$610,018	\$330,857
sandworms						
	Pounds	197,652	186,201	163,921	197,299	144,717
	Value	\$1,973,168	\$1,887,558	\$1,840,485	\$2,372,790	\$1,743,950

2021-2025* Commercial Maine Landings					
Species	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
scallop (Tot)					
Live Pounds	4,814,644	4,507,398	5,730,018	4,690,290	3,331,807
Meat Pounds	577,988	541,104	687,877	563,060	399,977
Value	\$9,325,675	\$9,107,470	\$9,695,160	\$9,497,969	\$9,344,477
scallop (AQ)					
Live Pounds	3,072	3,115	12,633	4,451	4,566
Meat Pounds	369	374	1,517	534	548
Value	\$81,629	\$103,220	\$584,691	\$152,805	\$144,819
seaweed (Tot)					
Pounds	16,514,003	13,971,046	20,617,986	18,689,397	7,559,919
Value	\$1,161,592	\$1,503,463	\$2,246,118	\$2,478,896	\$1,188,507
seaweed (AQ)					
Pounds	493,675	765,219	829,073	928,229	437,150
Value	\$338,755	\$550,411	\$663,446	\$592,041	\$232,044
soft clam					
Pounds	7,568,440	6,874,841	5,691,369	5,744,511	6,186,089
Value	\$25,388,595	\$18,633,019	\$14,853,158	\$15,619,187	\$21,591,878
tuna					
Pounds	411,135	364,259	454,913	495,154	195,901
Value	\$2,280,147	\$1,891,508	\$2,321,982	\$2,546,911	\$1,047,913
urchins					
Pounds	894,516	833,582	640,022	520,530	557,466
Value	\$2,905,528	\$2,679,282	\$1,951,673	\$1,693,026	\$1,869,227
Total Pounds	216,648,877	204,695,908	213,223,438	204,790,293	169,400,803
Total Value	\$908,279,207	\$586,765,592	\$636,106,011	\$719,190,786	\$619,053,489

*2025 data are preliminary

Updated 2/6/2025