



**Matthew Scott - Aquatic Biologist**  
**29 Gowell Road - Belgrade, ME 04917**  
**(207) 441-8572**  
**msscott.afs@gmail.com**

*Decapoda vixis (Vixis Crayfish)*  
*A Native Species of Maine*

10 April, 2025

Ms. Dawn Hallowell, Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Land Resources  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-017,

Dear Ms. Hallowell:

With this letter and my comments, I wholeheartedly and professionally support the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Conservation Plan to protect, enhance, and permanently conserve 50,000 acres of wildlife habitat in Beattie and The Forks Plantation. This land and its ecological relationship with all associated aquatic and terrestrial wildlife is a prime example of slowing the human footprint and fragmentation of their existing habitats.

I believe in conservation easements. For my 100-acre farm in Belgrade, I decided to put it into such an easement. I decided to put it into such an easement to protect habitat and water quality in the Great Pond watershed. While my donation is small compared to the NECEP Plan, it stands as an example to landowners abutting my property to follow suit, which some have, to increase the acreage for conserving habitat from fragmentation. Most of the abutters, including my land are in Maine Tree Growth for silvicultural practices.

I have never witnessed such a large area in Maine, excluding Baxter Park, to be managed for mature forest, in perpetuity, with additional benefits and requirements in this Plan. This is a remarkable accomplishment for which all involved should be praised. Commercial, industrial, and seasonal development are prohibited, as well as energy infrastructure, which reduces all chances of habitat fragmentation. As a citizen of Maine, I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

My credentials are as follows:

1. American Fisheries Society; Certified Fisheries Scientist # 617
2. Retired Chief Biologist and Division Director, Maine DEP
3. Former Deputy Commissioner, MDIF&W
4. Former Chair, Maine Board of Environmental Protection
5. 1970 Licensed Master Maine Guide and member of the MPGA

Signature line: Matthew Scott

*Matthew Scott*

(Independent review of proposals in lake water quality, aquatic biology and fisheries science)