

MacNeil, Jami

From: Ben Levine <ben@speakingplace.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:13 AM
To: MacNeil, Jami
Subject: Comment on Rockland Marina Expansion

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Hello Jami - I was told by Karen Foust at the Submerged Lands Program that I could post a comment with you on the Rockland Marina Expansion.

Hello - I am writing in opposition to the proposed marina expansion in Rockland. I have been a sailor in the harbor for forty years. For fifteen years I had a mooring in the harbor and for the last 20 years I have lived in the south end of Rockland. I walk the harbor trails at least three times a week.

My objections to the proposed marina expansion project are two:

1. Congestion and access - During the time I had a boat in the harbor, there was a steady effort to move moorings closer to each other. It became impossible to sail onto or off your mooring without the risk of ramming a neighboring vessel. The harbor is increasingly congested. The large yacht mooring system planned for the marina expansion could easily be accommodated with a system of moorings in the outer harbor. All these big yachts have adequate tenders allowing them otherwise free access to the rest of the harbor. In any case increased use of the harbor as intended will create navigation problems not previously encountered.

2. Visual Access to Penobscot Bay: if you stand on the boardwalk or parking lot opposite the planned marina, a 40 foot yacht moored at the marina next to Archers Restaurant is a boat which can easily have a flying bridge 15-20 feet about sea level. A boat this long effectively blocks your ability to see the the bay and islands (currently visibility to at least to North Haven, close to ten miles). A sixty or eighty foot yacht is typically 20-25 feet or more in height off the water.

The proposed marina with its clients all at dockside will constitute a wall of plastic 15-25 feet high which will reduce visibility from Harbor Park or from the boardwalk from almost 10 miles to about 100 feet! Instead of seeing nature, the ocean and islands, you will be looking at a wall of plastic mega yachts.

This becomes a class issue: with the marina, the breathtaking beauty of the harbor, bay and islands is taken and blocked from ordinary people and made the exclusive privilege of large yacht owners. And not unimportantly, a large percentage of the people losing their enjoyment just described are the local tax payers who help make the whole harbor possible with their taxes. This marina is a theft of rights of the people of Rockland and its visitors .

Thank you...Ben Levine