

## MacNeil, Jami

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**From:** Stukas, Heather CIV USARMY CENAE (USA) <Heather.S.Stukas@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 23, 2021 8:44 AM  
**To:** Michael Sabatini; Davis, Justin; wmorong  
**Cc:** Foust, Karen L; MacNeil, Jami  
**Subject:** Public Comments that the Corps has Received

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Please see below about public comments that the Corps has received.

Dear Heather Stukas,

I have many concerns about the Safe Harbor Marinas' expansion proposal for Rockland. I have written extensive public comments about it and submitted them to the Maine DEP and the Maine Submerged Lands Bureau, as well as written about it in my capacity as a columnist in the local newspaper, The Free Press. I hope you will look over the public comments to those agencies before making your decision, as my comments were only one of dozens by other local residents concerned about a marina expansion removing public waterways in order to give space to 4-5 200-foot-plus highly climate-change hastening megayachts at a time in Rockland's inner harbor, very close to Rockland's sole ocean swimming beach.

Safe Harbor's plan also calls for docking these large boats in the municipal channel. The buffer in their plan is only 20', yet the 200' boats that they can dock there routinely have a beam of 40'. The Rockland harbormaster is saying that they will need to ask permission for docking larger than 20' beam boats there, but that opens up all sorts of room for squishy boundaries, given that the city is negotiating with Safe Harbor for continued public access to the boardwalk, one of our most beloved local scenic walks, and therefore the city may want to bend over backwards to accommodate Safe Harbor's desires.

I also find that to be touching the municipal channel, with a 20' beam boat, could interfere with the channel, plus they are adding more boats to be coming in and out of a channel that is more accustomed to smaller boats and watercraft. I have heard from kayakers and other small boaters who are very upset that they will have to be navigating in even more crowded waters, and that if the entire Eastern side is taken away from the public, in order for Safe Harbor to build four 150' docks, accommodating up to 200' megayachts, it will mean they can no longer navigate closer to shore, but instead must go that much further out past beyond all those boats, which are very large, potentially creating a less safe atmosphere for smaller watercraft.

Because you indicated you are primarily concerned with navigation, I have a few more questions to ask to make sure the Corps will have done its due diligence in looking into navigation aspects. Personally I think all government agencies should also be taking into account our coming climate crisis, and refusing to approve the building of megayacht infrastructure, which hastens the demise of the climate, but I understand that may not be what you are looking for. So:

Have the Rockland ferries been consulted as to any concerns with this?

How many extra boats will this cause to be going on and out of the inner harbor, at capacity?

How many large, and small boats, at capacity?

Which, if any, fishermen used that area for their boats?

Have the fishermen been consulted about navigation and have their concerns been allayed?

What about Safe Harbors' plan to include dinghies as close as possible to Sandy Beach, our one place in Rockland harbor where we all enjoy swimming? Is there concern about the extra traffic of dinghies going in and out, and the possibility of leaking oil and gas, right where it will surely drift into where Rockland finally, after so many years without being able to swim in a clean-enough harbor, we can finally swim? There is no doubt that this expansion will negatively affect those who use that public beach, in regards to views, the feeling of openness, and perhaps even safety, as some swimmers like to swim out into what is now public water, but could soon be given by the state and federal government to the largest marina consolidation company in the world.

I hope you conclude that this project, particularly the four Eastern-side 150' docks, so close to our place of leisure, taking away a large chunk of public waterways for a private for-profit corporation to build those docks, does not serve the public interest. It certainly does not serve most locals' interests.

Thank you very much,  
Rebecca Glaser  
Rockport

Following is the Corps response:

Dear Ms. Glaser,

Thank you for your comments concerning the application of Safe Harbor – Rockland Marina Expansion in Rockland, Maine.

We will forward your comments to the applicant who may contact you directly in an effort to resolve your concerns. We have made your comments part of the official file and they will be considered, along with all other comments received, in determining what permit action is in the public interest.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at 207-623-8367 at our Augusta, Maine Project Office.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Heather S. Stukas  
Project Manager

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