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Subject: Comment about Kingfish Maine's intent to file Maine Waste Discharge License/Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Renewal Application
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Good afternoon

I would like to comment regarding Kingfish Maine's intent to file a Maine Waste Discharge License/Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Renewal Application. The large-scale industrial nature of the project, the nature of Chandler Bay, and the potential ecological and economic impacts raise concerns.

Chandler Bay has SA quality water even though it's ranked as SB and is an Essential Fish Habitat for many ecologically and commercially valuable species. It also has recirculating currents that would compound the concentrations of effluent components such as nitrogen, which would be present in an amount that exceeds the typically permissible amount with eelgrass an indicator, and damage the fragile balance of the bay's ecosystem. The intake pipes are also a concern, especially in terms of the entrainment and entrapment of marine species in early life cycle stages.

Furthermore, both the intake and the outtake pipes represent a significant disturbance of the shoreline area. There are considerations regarding the turbidity and sedimentation.

The nature of the neighborhood and how Kingfish Maine's operation as proposed could impact the quality of living is also a relevant consideration worthy of discussion. There are concerns about noise, smell, traffic, and appearance. A project of this scale could have a large impact on the overall character of the neighborhood and surrounding areas.

NOAA has expressed concern about the need to put measures in place to reduce the impacts of the pipes in the shoreline zone in terms of turbidity and sedimentation. NOAA has also stated the benefit of doing a more thorough analysis about how the pipes could impact commercially and ecologically important species in an area that is so vital to the functioning of the fishing community. The presence of these concerns only reinforces the need to carefully consider this project.

Best,
Holly