

It is my understanding that you are willing to hear comments from people who will be affected by your decision on the Rockland Harbor Plan. It is my hope that you not just hear the comments but really listen to what is being said.

I consider Rockland my home, even though for now I had to leave for employment. I am presently a professor in Arizona; however, I will be returning once I retire, but return now every summer. Each summer when I return to Rockland, I have noted the water quality becoming worse every year. I have been photographing my findings and have expressed grave concerns on the quality of water (see below pictures). When speaking with other residents, there is a common theme, there is more “sludge” to the water than ever before. One of my concerns has been the purchase of a waterfront business by Dupont, now merged with International Flavors & Fragrances, with Dupont’s N&B Transactions where they produce, “Nourish, Scent, Health & Biosciences, and Pharma Solutions” based on their SEC filings. I am bringing this up as it is important to the plans of expansion for the Rockland waterfront.

I am a professor and teach white collar crimes. Dubont and their subsidiaries are used in my class as a case study on environmental violations. Yet, Rockland *opened their arms* to this company (IFF being just a subsidiary) even with the many violations Dubont has in other parts of the country in water contamination and air pollution. Now the water in the harbor appears to be worse each year – coincidence?

Now Rockland is viewing an expansion in the harbor to allow more boats - and larger boats at that will even further pollute the waters. This should go without saying but appears there needs to be a reminder; once the water is polluted beyond repair it is gone. Not only will the livelihood of the residence be lost, so will tourism. If one cannot even enjoy the water because of the contaminants, they will stop coming.

Not so long ago a student with the University of Maine did her research on water quality on the Camden Harbor. The results, as one person in the know stated, “was not the results we had expected.” Further explaining this the results showed human waste in the waters at high levels. From these findings (which were kept confidential) the harbor masters began to encourage boaters to use their pumping stations – but all they could do was “encourage” them, and not require them. Yet, Rockland is looking at expanding and increase the boats instead of cleaning the mess there now (see pictures below from Rockland Harbor near the landing, but other pictures I have show this same oil and sludge along the boardwalk as well).

Studies by several environmental groups (very easy to find on the internet; one study after another) found additional impacts by boats: heavily trafficked waterways increased the growth of algae and kick up sediments, both obstruct sunlight and spoil the water. Deposits left from boats change the water chemistry adding too many compounds like zinc and copper, detergents, paints, petroleum products, batteries, metals, and human waste. Aquatic plants and animals require the right amount of light, temperature, pH levels, and more toxins from more boats will not only add further contaminants to the water but destroy plants and wildlife (eponline.com).

Do not be blinded by money thrown your way. This is short term, while the long-term effects are great and permanent. Do not expand, but instead clean up the mess that is there now and make Rockland the poster for clean waters, quaint town where one can visit without stress of overcrowding that will result in the expansion. Let Rockland be “the place” to visit; to enjoy swimming in clean waters.

Submitted by: Karen Meunier



Rockland Maine Harbor pollutants

Pictures along Rockland Harbor Boardwalk

