TO: **Erle Townsend,** Project Manager
Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Bureau of Land and Water Quality Control

FROM: Department of Marine Resources (DMR)

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PROJECT REVIEW

PROJECT:

DEP Application #:	L-25547-4D-A-N
Applicant:	Frank Mazer & Angela Pendleton
Location:	Islesboro (Islesboro Harbor)
Type of Project:	Rip-rap Shoreline Stabilization

The above proposed project has been carefully reviewed and considered by DMR personnel. The following are DMR's comments:

DMR understands that the applicant is proposing to install large rip-rap stone along approximately 90 ft. of shoreline over sand and geo-textile fabric to a height of between 7 and 15 ft. at a 2:1 slope resulting in the covering of 715 sq. ft. of intertidal mudflat. Construction equipment would operate from the upland.

The site of the proposed project is a low energy shoreline within a cove at the southern end of Islesboro Harbor. The upland is 2.2 acre lot developed with a driveway, house and lawn. The supratidal is a clay soil bank with a mix of trees and other vegetation between 7 ft. and 15 ft. high that is undergoing significant erosion due apparently to poor upland drainage. The intertidal is mudflat with salt marsh adjacent to the easterly end of the proposed rip-rap. The shoreline to the west has been rip-rap by the applicant under an NRPA Permit-by-Rules granted in 2008 and 2009.

This proposal should not cause any significant adverse impacts to traditional fishing activity, navigation and recreation, or riparian access.

Further consideration should be given to addressing the underlying problem of unstable embankment soils due to inadequate drainage. Remediation of the drainage problem along with vegetative bank stabilization could allow the amount of necessary rip-rap to be reduced or eliminated. The area of intertidal fill could also be reduced by cutting back the bank and moving the toe of slope further back. If after these avoidance/minimization measures have been fully explored unavoidable loss of wetland (ecologically valuable mudflat in this case) would still occur, these losses should be compensated for. If a large area of rip-rap is ultimately deemed necessary consideration should be given to planting salt tolerant vegetation in the voids between the rip-rap stone. This would help soften the appearance of the stone and provide some forage and cover for small mammal and birds.

Brian M. Swan
DMR Environmental Coordinator
Date: January 19, 2012