

Bill Mook

2018 Conservation Leadership Award

For putting his real-life experience as a shellfish grower and business owner into advocacy work for clean water and a healthy climate

The scene is a common one at NRCM: Team members are perched around a conference room table planning a press conference to put the spotlight on a particular threat or opportunity, and the question arises, “Who would be a great spokesperson?” If the issue is climate change and its impacts on Maine’s shellfish industry, Bill Mook comes quickly to mind. Bill is the owner of Mook Sea Farm, situated along the Damariscotta River in Walpole and home to Wiley Point and Pemaquid Point oysters. Bill is experiencing firsthand the impacts global warming is having on Maine’s shellfish. His voice and perspective are extremely valuable. He understands how carbon pollution interferes with the ability of shellfish to grow their shells, and why warming ocean waters means lower dissolved oxygen levels that deprive oysters of oxygen, and about the increase in bacterial diseases that can wreak havoc on the oyster industry. We are grateful to Bill for sharing his expertise and making his voice heard not only at press events but also in published opinion pieces, and in videos and visits with our Congressmen and women in Washington, D.C. Bill’s website, maineoysterfarm.com, is packed with information and advocacy, and he recently helped form the group, Shellfish Growers Climate Coalition. He is investing in energy efficiency and solar for his business, and in an expanded shellfish facility that is more resilient to the effects of climate change. Bill was recently quoted as saying, “We want our grandkids to say that we were part of the solution and not the problem.” He is certainly demonstrating that, and it is an honor to present him with our 2018 Conservation Leadership Award.



Natural Resources Council of Maine

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