

Testimony in Support of LD 693: An Act to Protect Inland Water Quality, Shorelines, Wildlife and Public Safety by Prohibiting Operation of a Wake Boat to Create an Enhanced Wake Close to Shore or in Shallow Water

Written by Tristan Taber, Aquatic Ecologist

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Dear members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee,

My name is Tristan Taber and I am a resident of Bangor, ME. I am asking that you support LD 693, a bill that would prohibit the use of large-wake-generating boats and wake-inducing equipment within 500' of shore and in water less than 20' depth.

I am an aquatic ecologist concerned about the impact wakes along the shore have on shoreland sediment structure, macroinvertebrate community, and erosion of near-shore soil.

I am urging you to support LD 693 as a common-sense solution. Many lake residents and boaters cannot ensure that headway speed and proximity to the shore is not causing a wake that disturbs the shoreland. Large-wake-generating boats exacerbate this issue and can cause overtopping of the shore meaning erosion of phosphorus rich topsoils, which in-turn negatively impact the lake waters through eutrophication - the accelerated nutrient enrichment of a lake, leading to cyanobacteria blooms.

Wake-boats and large-wake-generating aftermarket equipment can provide people with an enjoyable outdoor activity, but it needs to be used in conditions that will not negatively impact lake health.

Please vote to support LD 693 as a smart way to assure safe boating opportunities for everyone on our publicly owned Great Ponds.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important bill.

Most respectfully,
Tristan Taber
Aquatic Scientist