

barry kutzen
range ponds environmental association
LD 693

Dear members of the inland fisheries and wildlife committee, My name is Dr. Barry Kutzen and I have lived on Middle Range Pond in Poland Spring for the past 50 years. I have been the lake monitor, collecting lake data for the past 35 years, so I consider myself an experienced observer of lake conditions. I support LD 693 limiting wake boats ability to further degrade our fragile lake. Range pond is a small pond of 392 acres with a mean depth of 29 feet. Last summer for the first time in my 35 years of monitoring the lake had an algae bloom. Coincidentally to this was the presence for the first time of 2 wake boats from a summer camp that circled the lake continuously for 6 hours a day every day. I observed the continuous pounding of the shoreline with subsequent erosion and excess runoff of nutrients and phosphorous, all detrimental to the health of the lake. There are many causes of algae blooms but I can't help to think that this added burden helped to produce this. Furthermore the large wakes preclude stand up paddle boarders, and kayakers from safely using the lake. I personally had to go out to rescue a family of three whose canoe was capsized by the large wake of one of these boats. Although I personally think these boats have no place on a small body of water, at least you need to regulate their use to prevent as little disruption and damage as possible.