

Dear Inland Fish and Wildlife Committee,

I am the Chairperson for the Lovell Invasive Plant Prevention Committee in Lovell, Maine. We are a town committee which was organized to prevent invasive plants from entering the Kezar Lake Watershed. We have been in existence since Variable Leaf Milfoil was found in Cushman Pond close to 30 years ago. Our courtesy boat inspectors cover the public ramps on Kezar Lake 7 days a week for 12 hours per day from early May through October. Our volunteer stewards patrol every piece of shoreline in our watershed. Our boat inspectors have found invasive fragments on boats and trailers entering our lake on numerous occasions over the years.

**LIPPC supports LD 1342 Increase Funding to Reduce the Spread of Invasives.** The lakes of Maine are vital to Maine's economy. We support an increase to the lake and river protection sticker for all motorized and personal watercraft. We also would recommend that the state require non motorized boats to get a sticker. This would provide a significant potential source of revenue supporting CBI programs and eradication. Non motorized boats are very likely to explore shallow coves where an invasive plant may exist and they can easily go from lake to lake.

**LIPPC supports LD 2141: Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations.** The committee supports an increase in funding to help address the most serious aquatic plant infestations in inland waters. We believe that boating on lakes with serious aquatic plant infestations should be restricted. In our opinion, a lake like Arrowhead which has 4 invasive species should NOT host bass tournaments or any non resident boating. There are typically over 100 fragments of invasive plants caught by inspectors coming out of the lake. We wonder how many fragments were not found when the ramp is not covered by an inspector? We support immediate surface use restrictions on new invasive plant finds as we believe it is imperative to stop the further spread on the infested lake and the spread to other lakes as well.

Thank you for your efforts in keeping Maine lakes and rivers invasive free!

**The Lovell Invasive Plant Committee:** Diane Caracciolo-Conary (Chair), Tim Cyr, David Mills, Wes Huntress, Ed Poliquin, Susan Hamlin, Doug Faille, Jill Rundle, Susan Welchmen, and Anne Lynch.