

## Androscoggin Upgrade Alert

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Joint Committee on Environment & Natural Resources,

I'm writing in support of an upgrade in water quality classification for the lower Androscoggin River from C to B.

My name is Orman Hines and I'm a resident of Phippsburg, Main. Fifty years ago Senator Ed Muskie authored the Clean Water Act, motivated in large part by the Androscoggin's use as an open sewer for industry and municipalities. Passage of the Act changed things substantially and launched us on the way to where today, this river and others are so much improved, enjoyed by many and inhabited by wildlife.

I support an upgrade of the lower Androscoggin River through either **LD 676, An Act to Reclassify Part of the Androscoggin River to Class B** or through the **DEP's Triennial Review** process. Given the concurrent review and legislation, plus our desire to work with wastewater operators *and* accomplish the reclassification, we'd like to point out the need to finesse the timing of an upgrade as the following paragraph details-

I support LD 676, but with a caveat. Because of timing issues, I recommend passage of an upgrade bill be delayed until second half of session and the DEP has renewed 2020-expired discharge permits for Lewiston/Auburn, Lisbon and Brunswick wastewater plants at the current C classification. This will allow for the legally required upgrade to Class B while providing 5 years for dischargers and the DEP to formulate and enact any possibly necessary plans to meet Class B conditions.

As long as the actual quality of the river (now B) exceeds that of the current classification (still C), there is ample room for degradation while still meeting the current classification. This violates statute and should not be allowed to stand.

38 M.R.S.A. § 464 (F) (4)

*“When the **actual quality** of any classified water exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification, that higher water quality must be maintained and protected. **The board shall recommend** to the Legislature that water be reclassified in the next higher classification.”*

If you have not, I suggest you read the testimony submitted by Friends of Merrymeeting Bay on this bill and consider the 40-exhibit upgrade proposal they submitted with Grow L+A as part of the

Triennial Review and which can be found at the third plus sign down in the Chemical section of the FOMB Cybrary [here](#).

Thank you.

Orman Hines  
SEBASCO ESTATES

Formed in 1975, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the ecological, aesthetic, biological and commercial values of Merrymeeting Bay and its watershed through research, education, advocacy and land conservation.

## BECOME A MEMBER

Become a Committee Volunteer  
(Research & Advocacy, Education, Land Conservation, Membership & Fundraising). Contact Ed at 666-3372

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay  
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Feb 10, Searching for Smelt, Citizen Scientists & Sea-Run Fishes Claire Enterline & Danielle Frechette

March 10, The Sonic Sea - Voices of the Deep, Chris Clark

April 14, Native Fish Coalition: Protecting & Restoring Native Fish, Emily Bastian & Bob Mallard

May 12, River History & the New Environmental Movement, Scot McFarlane

Details on web calendar schedule:

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For More Information: Ed Friedman at 666-3372

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Legislative Alerts

Who Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

What Action Alerts! LD 676, Lower Andro Upgrade,

LD 1265, Halt Inhumane Coyote Killing

When May 3rd. 9am & 10am

Where

Featuring Written Testimony Link

You!

Contact Ed Friedman 666-3372

Below are two Action Alerts for bills being heard Monday, May 3rd. The Lower Androscoggin Upgrade Bill, LD 676 is being heard by the Environment & Natural Resources Committee at 9am and An Act to Control Means of Hunting Coyotes, LD 1265 will be heard by the IF&W Committee at 10am. Technically testimony is accepted any time until Work Session on the bills which can sometimes be only several days later so we encourage you to submit your comments promptly.

If you want to provide oral testimony you need to register at the same legislative link noted above. It is very easy to submit testimony. Follow the simple prompts. There is room in a box to write some comments and or you can hit "Browse" and attach a document from your computer. Below is suggested language for each bill you can copy and paste into a document and attach or paste directly into the comment box if it will accept the word length. The testimony process prompts you to choose a committee and date and then the bill. Once complete it will ask if you want to file any other testimony.

Thanks so much!!

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Thank you.

Coyote Hunting Alert

Senator Dill, Representative Landry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife:

Good morning, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in \_\_\_\_\_.  
I am testifying today in favor of LD 1265, An Act to Control the Means of Killing Coyotes.

Canine carnivores including Maine's coyotes are integral to human and ecosystem health. Why? If not obvious already from the incredible rise in tick-borne illnesses, Covid 19's likely relationship to wildlife wet markets should make clear that our human behavior toward wildlife and our actions toward the land are at least a very significant source of disease.

One behavior in particular is of great concern: the year round killing of our coyotes, an important Keystone carnivore here in Maine. Of grave concern is not only the year round killing, but the violent manner in which this happens. Keystone carnivores play an important role in protecting other wildlife and humans from disease.

Our coyotes play a vital role in controlling wildlife populations through the complexity of predator-prey relations. Coyotes can have a powerful effect in controlling small carnivores like foxes, raccoons and skunks, and therefore protect them from spreading rabies disease amongst themselves and to us.

Many Mainers suffer from Lyme disease, which along with the growth in other tick-borne disease has become ubiquitous here. This too is an expression of the imbalance in the natural system. This disease has become an epidemic because of the overpopulation of our deer on whose bodies adult ticks breed, and proliferation of white footed mice, who carry the bacterium and then infect ticks that bite them.

Coyotes have the ability to balance out the populations of deer and mice, and stamping out this epidemic, but only if we let them. In the meantime....our people and our children are suffering. In addition, more and more people in Maine are conferring with each other regarding the infringements of their private property rights due to this year round, unabashed killing of coyotes, day and night often by baiting (where lead poisoning of eagles and other species is a common by-product) or the use of hunting dogs (often violating property rights, scaring other game or injuring themselves).

So why do our Laws allow the YEAR ROUND KILLING of this important carnivore, who not only protect wildlife from disease, but also us? This bill will make it illegal to use hunting dogs to chase our Maine Coyotes to exhaustion and then kill them; it will make it illegal to bait Coyotes with the flesh of dead animals to draw them from their refuge and then shoot them; it will make it illegal to kill Coyotes at night. It is time!

Please vote Ought to Pass on LD 1265. Thank you.

Founded in 1975, Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB) utilizes research, education, advocacy, and land conservation to preserve, protect, and improve the unique ecosystems of Merrymeeting Bay and Gulf of Maine.