

I strongly support this Bill LD 394 in support of the loon and other bird life that are put in jeopardy by the speeding boats.

I have lived on Little Sebago Lake in Windham for approximately 10 years. I love all wildlife but especially the loons of our lakes. Since moving here I became involved in the Lakes Loon Protection group. We initially were involved in counting the loons, noting who's paired with whom, nesting areas, number of eggs laid, hatched, and survival rate as well as causes of deaths of the young. During this process we also have become much more aware of the causes of illnesses and deaths of both the young and the adults.

The two causes that bother me the most are the two inflicted by man: lead poisoning (fishing equipment related) and boat strikes. Loons more than other types of birds are affected by boat strikes because they as a bird are heavier and have more difficulty leaving the water to protect themselves so must dive to get away from boats. But how fast can they dive and how long does it take them to get deep enough to get away from the boat motors.

Racing boats go about 70 plus MPH while recreational boats are usually cruising at much slower speeds, about 10 to 15 mph. Recreational boaters on the whole are much more aware of their surroundings in relationship to birds so not only do speeding boats give less time to avoid them, but also are not paying attention to the birds either.

I sincerely hope that this bill passes so we can continue to enjoy our loons. Thank you.