

To the Members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee

I am writing to ask you to support LD 394, "An Act to Protect Maine's Loons and Other Wildlife in the Issuance of a Permit to Hold a Regatta, Race, or Boat or Water-ski Exhibition."

Maine statutes provide wide ranging protections for wildlife but there is an unfortunate omission that leaves loons and other wildlife unprotected in the face of inherent risks associated with state-sanctioned regattas, boat races, and water-ski exhibitions. Under the current permitting statute, Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has no authority to consider wildlife impacts in the issuance of such permits, no authority to attach wildlife protection conditions to such permits, and no authority to deny any such permit application on the basis of dangers to resident wildlife.

LD 394 will give IF&W the tools it needs to protect Maine's precious wildlife resources. I ask that you support this important legislation to Protect Maine's Loons and Other Wildlife during state-sanctioned Regattas, Races, and Boat or Water-ski Exhibitions.

Thank you.

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