

MONICA MAHONEY  
Standish

Dear Representative Ordway,

I am a constituent who has a home on Watchic Lake in Standish. I am writing to ask you, as my Representative and as a member of the House Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife 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 lakes without loons would be very sad places. There was a boat race on Watchic Lake in 2018 in which a banded adult male loon was hit and killed. Despite the fact that this race takes place within the known nesting territory of a pair of loons—which greatly increases the danger of a fatal boat strike—the current permitting ordinance gives IF&W no choice but to issue these permits, regardless of the potential negative impact on wildlife, as long as people and property are not at risk. Especially on a small lake like Watchic Lake, sometimes called Pond, such high-speed boat racing should not be permitted.

LD 394 is a win/win for all parties and all constituencies

- It protects Maine's precious wildlife resources, which are a major driver of Maine's \$6.2 billion tourist industry
- The people of Maine, who own Maine's great ponds, will be spared wildlife degradation caused by boat races
- Even the boat racing community has endorsed MDIFW oversight, telling MDIFW that "We too cherish the local habitat... We would certainly be amenable to any recommendations that the Department may have regarding the running of our events into the future." Steve Noury, Secretary of the South Shore Outboard Association, to Crystal Terriault, Assistant to the Commissioner, June 29, 2018. On file with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Thank you for your consideration.

Monica Mahoney  
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