

February 24, 2021

Dear Inland Fisheries and Wildlife;

We are 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."

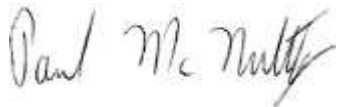
As a property owner on Watchic Lake, we have come to appreciate and enjoy the lake's wildlife, especially our loons. We have also come to appreciate how fortunate we are to have clear and high-quality water in our lake which encourages not only loon habitation but also supports eagles, fish, and other aquatic wildlife.

We were surprised to learn that the Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has no authority to consider wildlife or water quality impacts when issuing permits to hold boat races or regattas.

LD 394 is consistent with many other Maine statutes that provide wide ranging protections for wildlife and protect water quality. LD 394 will give IF&W the tools it needs to protect Maine's environmental resources, without negatively impacting any constituent group. It will have no impact on recreational boating, except perhaps to enhance the enjoyment of Maine's resident wildlife by recreational boaters. The law would not prohibit boat races or regattas, but simply allows the IF&W to ensure proper precautions are taken by such event organizers to ensure wildlife and water quality protection.

As a lover of Maine lakes and wildlife, we encourage you to support this important legislation to protect Maine's loons, other wildlife, and water quality during state-sanctioned Regattas, Races, and Boat or Water-ski Exhibitions.

Thank you,



Paul McNulty



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