

My name is Mike Richman. I am 52 years old and have lived my life in Southern Maine. My wife and I chose to remain in Maine and raise our family simply because Maine is a beautiful and peaceful place to live and raise our children.

I grew up constantly boating, fishing, kayaking and scuba diving on many bodies of water throughout Southern Maine. We have always had a modest boat and work hard all week to enjoy our weekends on the Lake. Our favorite family treat is to stop the boat in the middle of the lake, float for hours and swim.

But in recent years we have noticed a big increase in boat traffic, particularly boats that are large, loud and incredibly fast. We have had a few close calls, on Big Sebago in particular, where we were frightened that one of these large boats would hit us or simply run us over. We have been on the lake during organized boat races and have been scared for other boaters and wildlife.

We have many regulations in place to protect our wildlife from **unavoidable** impacts such as development, pesticides, dams etc. Yet damage to wildlife from boat racing is certainly **avoidable**. With this, I am shocked to learn that our sacred wildlife is not considered when allowing these large and fast boats to race on our lakes. We must do better.

And let's be clear, for the most part these are NOT pleasure boats, these are large and fast boats built for speed.....tremendous speed....speeds that are dangerous for any animal, or person, on top or within the water.

As a boater and scuba diver I can attest to how scary it can be to be on, or below the water when a boat is coming fast towards you. I can not imagine any bird or sea creature going through this, especially with babies, and we need to allow the MDIFW the ability to carefully assess whether or not a particular race puts our wildlife at risk.

In summary:

We live here for the beauty that our wildlife creates.

We have agencies like the MDIFW to protect this wildlife.

Please allow them to do their job when it comes to boat races.

Thank you.

Mike Richman

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