

Heinrich Wurm, MD

5 Mourning Dove Lane

Lovell, ME 04051

February 24, 2021

Dear Legislators,

**This letter is written in support of 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.”**

Living in Maine, whether seasonally or year-round, wildlife is part of the Maine experience. More specifically, loons are iconic in representing the call of the wild to visitors and Mainers alike. While loons are not endangered in Maine, biologists and community scientists carry a deep concern for our loon population which faces serious threats - natural and man-made - in both their seasonal habitats. From oil spills, fishing nets and food shortages in the ocean to lead poisoning, fishing line entanglement in our lakes. Natural predation of loon eggs and chicks by Bald Eagles, racoons and snapping turtles result in barely one surviving chick for two nesting pairs. Thankfully, they can live 2-3 decades and remain fertile into that age.

Enabling our Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to consider loon and other wildlife safety when deciding over a permission to stage a speed boat tournament is a natural consequence of this state and its residents and visitors to demand that consideration be given to the protection of wildlife and to the preservation of the call of the wild or what’s left of it.

Finally, this discussion has uncovered a most surprising gap in responsibility given to the Maine DIF&W. Wildlife concerns are central to the Department’s mission and should never be excluded from a responsible decision-making process.

I urge you in the strongest terms to pass LD 394 and enable MDIFW to apply it where it makes sense.

Thank you,

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