

Alison Smith  
Freeport

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to express my opinion on airboat use in our waters around Lower Flying Point. I understand a compromise was attempted between the airboat operators and the residents but none was made. I know that makes your job that much harder.. trying to legislate a balance. I am not sure why a compromise cannot be found as we respect these are individuals who are making a living and the use of these boats helps them get into the shallows in order to do so. But it's a shame it takes that kind of boat to meet that need. These boats are loud. We have been woken before dawn on numerous occasions. And it is not a fleeting sound like a normal motor boat. This sound lasts and lasts. I remember last summer I was in my kayak and followed one with my eyes until I could not see it anymore toward South Freeport. I lost sight of the boat as it had to have been a mile away but I could still hear it as if it was only 500 feet away. It blew my mind. Another time, our house windows rattled when one traveled between the point and Bustins Island. The sound travels in the bay. I can hear loud conversations on Bustins. There are no trees or other geography to block the sound waves over the water, so we on the shore can hear birds calling from the islands, voices, and boats very well. For us, it IS a quality of life issue. People live and visit our piece of paradise to get away from noise and hear the water and the birds. I certainly hope a compromise can be had. I will add however, that my other concern is if the operators win this debate, what will prevent more of the same from coming. What if there are 10 boats operating in the area. They may be "spread" out along a wide stretch of water but nonetheless we can hear all of them.

Most Sincerely,

Alison Smith  
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