

Good morning!

I hope this picture shows you how beautiful and serene the South Freeport harbor is at sunrise! We reside on Harraseeket road and our house is on the other side of the street from the houses that are by the water, 80' elevation above sea level.

This picture is significant because I want you to imagine laying in your bed, sound asleep at 3:30 am and being awoken by the roar of an airboat!!!

The campers sleeping at Winslow park get a very rude awakening from the launch, also. I know you would agree that this is totally unacceptable! I can't imagine all the parents dealing with upset children in the middle of the night.

My wife brought me to Maine 40 years ago for vacation and we never went anywhere else, every summer. We moved here from Charlotte 3 years ago (where sound ordinances are in place) for the peace and quiet of a small community; to be semi-retired from the construction industry. I understand decibel levels from the construction equipment I have used over the years.

I have acquired my Master Captains License and am in the process of getting my Tidewater Guides' License to spread the fun of coastal Maine fishing this coming summer! I invested over \$30k in my boat with a new engine and other amenities this past spring in the hopes to make my future clients have an exceptional time in Maine.

With over 200 hours on my boat this summer, I had first hand experience with the airboats and their operators, at all hours of the day and night. The decibel level of these boats in general, is not acceptable on Maine waters, in my view; however, if we must accept their use, then the 100db level being considered is unacceptable. No matter where I am fishing, as soon as they start the engine, from a mile or two away, it can be heard. The sound waves travel across the water and echoes off the land banks. As the airboats get closer to where I am fishing, within .5 miles, all the birds and ducks leave the area and don't return after the airboat passes. Needless to say, the fish that we were catching all leave also. I have learned to leave the areas where the airboats are coming to or leaving from as they absolutely ruin the entire experience of why I am on the water to begin with. I don't want my future guide clients to experience Maine this way.

The effects on our community, for 2 years now, has been devastating to our peace and tranquility disrupted by these airboat owners whom seem to have no respect for anyone or any law.

I hereby implore the IFW to reconsider the current proposal or completely outlaw these boats in Maine. There is NO acceptable reason for these clam harvesters to be using these airboats.

Even the operators are wearing ear protection!!

Respectfully submitted,

David Tyson

--

Captain David Tyson
The Balding Eagle

