



Blue Planet Strategies, LLC  
PO Box 917  
Bar Harbor / ME 04609

Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Chairman Jim Dill  
Cross Building, Room 206  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Honorable Mr. Dill,

We are writing to you in support of LD 833 and SPO298 *An Act To Protect Endangered Species Whose Life Cycles Include Maine Land or Waters*. Endangered species status is a critical and important designation that helps bring both awareness and resources together to help in a species recovery. Having federal ESA species located in Maine land or waters automatically become designated as Maine ESA species makes tremendous sense.

We would encourage the Maine legislative IFW and Marine Resource committees to also designate a State marine mammal species to join the state land mammals Moose and Maine Coon Cat. A logical choice would be the North Atlantic right whale, a species that numbers less than 400, and is a magnificent species that swims through Maine waters. Conservation rules for the protection of right whales have been being implemented on an ongoing basis by Maine fishermen. Promoting the right whale to state marine mammal species shows that the truth: Maine people care about protecting nature and wildlife and are good resource stewards. Maine has a proud record of recovering the Bald Eagle and can equally be as proud about the efforts it has, can, and will make in right whale conservation.

Lastly, the IFW has a web page that lists our Maine endangered species, yet the Maine DMR protected species web page has no such stand-alone listing, that we can find, listing Marine endangered species. Likewise, there are no links to information about research that Maine has done around the protection of Marine species and whales. The Right, Humpback, Finback, Sperm, and Sei whale; Leatherback, Atlantic Ridley, and Loggerhead sea turtles; and Shortnose sturgeon are all listed in a Maine endangered species statute. Having more information that shares the many research results for endangered marine species would improve educational information available to the Maine public and show our commitment to these species. For example, Maine has conducted tagging studies of whales, whale acoustic research, studies on weak rope and gear configurations, etc.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Zack Klyver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

R. Zack Klyver,  
Science Director  
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