

David LaFleur
Otisfield
LD 693

Dear members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee,

My name is David LaFleur and I have a three-season camp on Saturday Pond in Otisfield. I am asking for your support today for LD 693, a bill that would prohibit large wake generating boats from within 500' of shore and in water less than 20' deep.

Saturday Pond is a small, 180 acre pond with a maximum depth of 25 feet and a mean depth, per the Lake Stewards of Maine web site, of 8 feet.

We have been residents for 13 years and have noticed a marked deterioration in the quality of the overall lake experience in the last few years since the introduction of wake boats to this small, shallow pond.

I support LD 693 as a common-sense solution that will keep large-wake-generating boats on the water but direct them to places where they can operate safely because:

- With the limited pond size, large waves from these boats negatively impact and create safety concerns for others engaging in traditional recreational water uses, e.g., sailing, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding, fishing, and swimming.
- Shoreline erosion and disturbance of bottom vegetation has significantly reduced water clarity contributing to increasing algae blooms each year. Just an hour of wake boating results in much of the surface covered in floating bottom vegetation.
- What once was a stella large mouth bass fishery is no longer, possibly pointing to the disturbance of fish beds and reduction of water quality as a result of wake boats.
- The loon pair on the pond have not successfully produced chicks in the past five years.

Further, unlike many local lakes, there are no know invasive aquatic species in Saturday Pond. We of course would like to keep it that way and worry about the known risk of invasive species transfer from taking on and expelling water from wake boat ballast tanks.

Please vote to support LD 693 as a smart way to assure safe boating opportunities for everyone on our publicly owned Great Ponds.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important bill.

Signed,
Dave Lafleur
Saturday Pond, Otisfield