THE FIN & FEATHER CLUB OF MAINE

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April 25, 2003

Committee Chairperson and Committee Members
Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

RE: **An Act to Protect Maine's Inland Fisheries from Invasive Fish**
LD 1049

The Fin & Feather Club of Maine has been a Sportsman's club dedicated to preserving traditional outdoor recreation and access for over 50 years. We want to express our strong support for LD 1049 (**An Act to Protect Maine's Inland Fisheries from Invasive Fish**). We are very concerned about invasive species having access to the upper West branch of the Penobscot and tributaries because of the removal of several dams and lack of a barrier at the West Enfield Dam.

We have followed the issue of Northern Pike for over 10 years, when water levels drop at the Howland by-pass it is easy for Northern Pike to maneuver up the river up the Piscataquis River. Howland controls access to the Piscataquis River and West Enfield on the Penobscot. If they have been found in the Penobscot the next logical step would be both further up the Penobscot. and Piscataquis Rivers. Invasive species like Northern Pike would have access to the Medway dam and beyond, if a fish ladder is installed there. The Northern Pike has a veracious appetite for anything It is imperative we stop this and other invasive species from pristine fishing areas. We know from trapnets at Pushaw Pond this has and will continue to be an issue. The destructiveness of the Northern Pike would be immeasurable on all species.
We must stop them now!

We are also concerned about the comments from the department of Marine Resources stocking Alewife above the Medway dam. All this would have a severe and negative impact to our last remaining native brook trout and world class salmon fisheries.

We ask that you please support LD 1049 to save our important fisheries.

Respectfully,

Mr. Bryant Davis
President Fin & Feather Club of Maine

Cc: Bryant Davis
     Jim Busque

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