

Edith Cornwall
East Pond Association
LD 1435

I, Edith Cornwall, am the President of the East Pond Association located in Oakland, ME. where we have an IF&W owned public boat launch. We provide Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) at the boat launch by paid and volunteer inspectors beginning Memorial Day Weekend for 12 hours per day Friday, Saturday, Sunday, all holidays and for fishing tournaments. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are covered for 8 hours through Labor Day with limited hours until Indigenous Peoples Weekend. Our anticipated expenses for 2025 are over \$22,000.

In 2021 Curly-leaf Pondweed, a highly aggressive invasive was found. The DEP designated this as a Rapid Response Plan and this will be the 4th year that the 7 Lakes Alliance Dive Team has diligently pulled plants from May until late in the fall.

IF&W removed the boat launch kiosk as well as a professionally constructed sign showing a picture of Curly-leaf Pondweed, the location of the infestation and a request that boaters avoid the infested area. In order to educate the public and to gain their cooperation, our association designed and printed 1,000 brochures which are distributed in public locations and by the CBIs. I have personally spoken at public meetings in order to educate groups about this infestation and to explain how we are working to prevent this from invading the remaining 6 Belgrade Lakes.

A 2 phase Alum treatment costing \$1.2 million was done in 2018. The East Pond Association promotes the education of Best Management Practices, buffers, road maintenance, the Adopt-A-Shore Program, Loon responsibility, safety and lake preservation. We all know that REMEDIATION IS WAY MORE COSTLY THAN PREVENTION.

There are many new things to learn once you decide to live on a lake. Education is key to good decision making thus a kiosk is one of our most valuable educational assets. Unfortunately, we are not allowed to build a kiosk on IF&W own property.

I strongly support LD 1435 which will bring back this crucial educational structure. I also request that you consider providing more space for posting Lake Association materials. We, the Lake Associations, are the people who work on a day to day basis educating the year round and seasonal residents.

Please help us accomplish our goal of "Keeping East Pond Picture Perfect".