

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND NINTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 728

S. P. 254

In Senate, February 23, 1979

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator Trotzky of Penobscot.

MAY M. ROSS, Secretary of the Senate

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-NINE

**AN ACT to Restrict Access to Allagash Lake in the Allagash Wilderness  
Waterway.**

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

**12 MRSA § 672**, as amended by PL 1973, c. 460, § 17, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**§ 672. Access points and control stations**

Consistent with the purposes established in section 661, access points, control stations and watercourse crossings within the waterway may be established. These access restrictions shall include as a minimum the following:

- 1. Johnson Stream.** No access to Allagash Lake via Johnson Stream shall be permitted; and
- 2. Others.** Any other access point, control station or watercourse crossing located at such places as may be determined by the bureau.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Allagash Lake has long been noted for its lake trout (togue) and brook trout (square-tail) fisheries and its unique wilderness character. Lake trout from

Allagash Lake are used as a source of eggs for all statewide stocking of the species.

Aircraft and outboard motors are prohibited on Allagash Lake by the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. This prohibition of motorized equipment on and immediately around Allagash Lake reduced access for a short time.

Johnson Pond is a small lake adjacent to Allagash Lake but outside the restricted zone of the waterway. Since it is only a short distance from Allagash Lake via Johnson Stream, flying services have increasingly been flying canoes and people into Johnson Pond to gain access to Allagash Lake. It is estimated that up to 80% of the visitors to Allagash Lake fly into Johnson Pond.

This increased access has 2 serious effects on Allagash Lake. First, it threatens the existing high quality fishery in the lake. Based on past experience in other lakes, it is known that large increases in fishing pressure and the harvest of many large fish is quickly followed by decreases in fishing quality. It is particularly important to preserve this high quality fishing since the lake is used as the source of eggs for all statewide lake trout stocking.

Secondly, the increased access to Allagash Lake from planes landing on Johnson Pond threatens the wilderness character of the area.

Allagash Lake is reached by canoeing and poling from Chamberlain Lake, up Allagash Stream, portaging around Little Allagash Falls and continuing up the stream to the lake. Many canoe parties find, after having made their way up Little Allagash Stream to the lake, that campsites are already occupied by parties who have reached the lake by flying services.

The serenity of the lake is disturbed by the noise of planes flying over Allagash Lake, taking off and landing on Johnson Pond. This is clearly not consistent with the purposes for creating this part of the waterway.

This bill would prohibit access to Allagash Lake via Johnson Stream from Johnson Pond.