

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
 22 STATE HOUSE STATION  
 AUGUSTA, MAINE  
 04333-0022

ANGUS S. KING, JR.  
 GOVERNOR

RONALD B. LOVAGLIO  
 COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

October 24, 2000

**To:** Commission Members  
**From:** Andrew Fisk   
**Subject:** Proposal to prohibit personal watercraft (PWCs) on Kennebago Lake and River, Davis and Stetsontown Townships, Franklin County

Attached please find a proposal submitted to us by the Kennebago Lake Camp Owners Association and Kennebago Lake Camps, Inc. to prohibit the operation of personal watercraft (PWCs) on Kennebago Lake and River above the Mahaney Dam to the outlet of Little Kennebago Lake.

Staff Recommendation:

Endorse the proposal as submitted, and forward to the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for consideration under the authority and direction of Public Law 2000, Chapter 701.

Process for Kennebago PWC prohibition

This proposal was initiated by the Kennebago Lake Camp Owners Association and Kennebago Lake Camps, Inc. in August of 1999. This petition was one of two that the Commission considered at its September, 1999 meeting in Presque Isle, and forwarded with no recommendation. This petition was formally resubmitted with additional information by both organizations in August of this year. Both Associations have unanimously endorsed the prohibition of personal water craft at each of their last two annual meetings.

These waterbodies are entirely within the unorganized townships of Davis and Stetsontown, so staff distributed notice of this proposal to the 90 property owners within these townships.

The Proposal: Prohibit the operation of PWCs on Kennebago Lake & River:

• Responses

Petition	74 in support
Davis & Stetsontown Townships, Franklin County September, 2000, mailing  (90 property owners)	25 landowners support (20 repeats from petition) / 1 AOC'L 13 others support 0 oppose <u>79 total owners support (88% of owners)</u>



The Bureau of Parks & Lands, which manages a small unit of reserved land on the shore of the Lake, supports the prohibition. Their response is included in the total above.

- **Enforcement**

The two lake associations have agreed to enforce the proposed ban. The access to Kennebago is controlled by three gated roads, where public access is available to the lake via the use of the public parking lot at Grant's Kennebago Camps. Public access is granted via a "public use permit" system established this past year with the Bureau of Parks & Lands and Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife [information attached]. Signage with a contact number at Grant's Camps will be posted at both boat landings. The local game warden is the owner of Kennebago River Camps, which is located on the river immediately outside the northernmost gate.

In addition, the two associations each will establish four-person enforcement committees that can work to ensure that the proposed system is working effectively.

The two associations maintain that these provisions will allow for enforcement of the proposed ban.

- **Criteria**

I have summarized the material submitted by the Associations in their petition [attached], as well as general information that we maintain in our files, that speaks to the following criteria:

*"Use to which waters are put"*

- Kennebago Lake and River are used principally for fishing and boating. Motor sizes are generally 6 to 10 horsepower.
- There are two boat launch facilities maintained by the Associations. They are not available to the public. The public can park at the public lot by permit and hand carry their boats to the water from the lot.
- The lake is a Management Class 4 lake, which is accessible and developed.
- Development is concentrated at either end of the lake, with a 60-member Kennebago Lake Camp Owners Association at the west end, and a 27-member Kennebago Lake Camp, Inc.
- Kennebago Lake is fly-fishing only per Inland Fisheries & Wildlife regulations.

*"Depth of water"*

- Kennebago Lake is 1700 acres in size.
- The average depth of the lake is 68 feet, with a maximum of 116 feet.
- 3 miles of the Kennebago River is included in this proposal, with an average depth of 10 feet and width of 30 feet. It contains an 80 acre pond, The Logans.

*"Amount of water-borne traffic"*

- On average approximately 10 boats use the Lake and River at any one time, most all of which have 6 horsepower motors. There are two larger motorboats that are regularly used on the lake.
- There are occasional canoes and kayaks on the water.

*"Wildlife and environmental values"*

- Kennebago is a resource class 1A lake with outstanding ratings in fisheries, wildlife, scenic, shoreline, and physical resources.
- The Logans is characterized as the "best wetland in the area" for wildlife in the 1992 Lake Assessment report.
- The Lake has high wildlife and fisheries abundance and diversity of species.

*"Noise"*

- There is no existing problem reported with noise.

*"Traditional uses"*

- The principal use of the lake is fishing and boating.
- There are two commercial sporting camps on the Lake and River. Grant's Kennebago Camps is a historic, turn-of-the-century sporting camp located on the lake. Kennebago River Kamps is a newer outfit operating on the River.

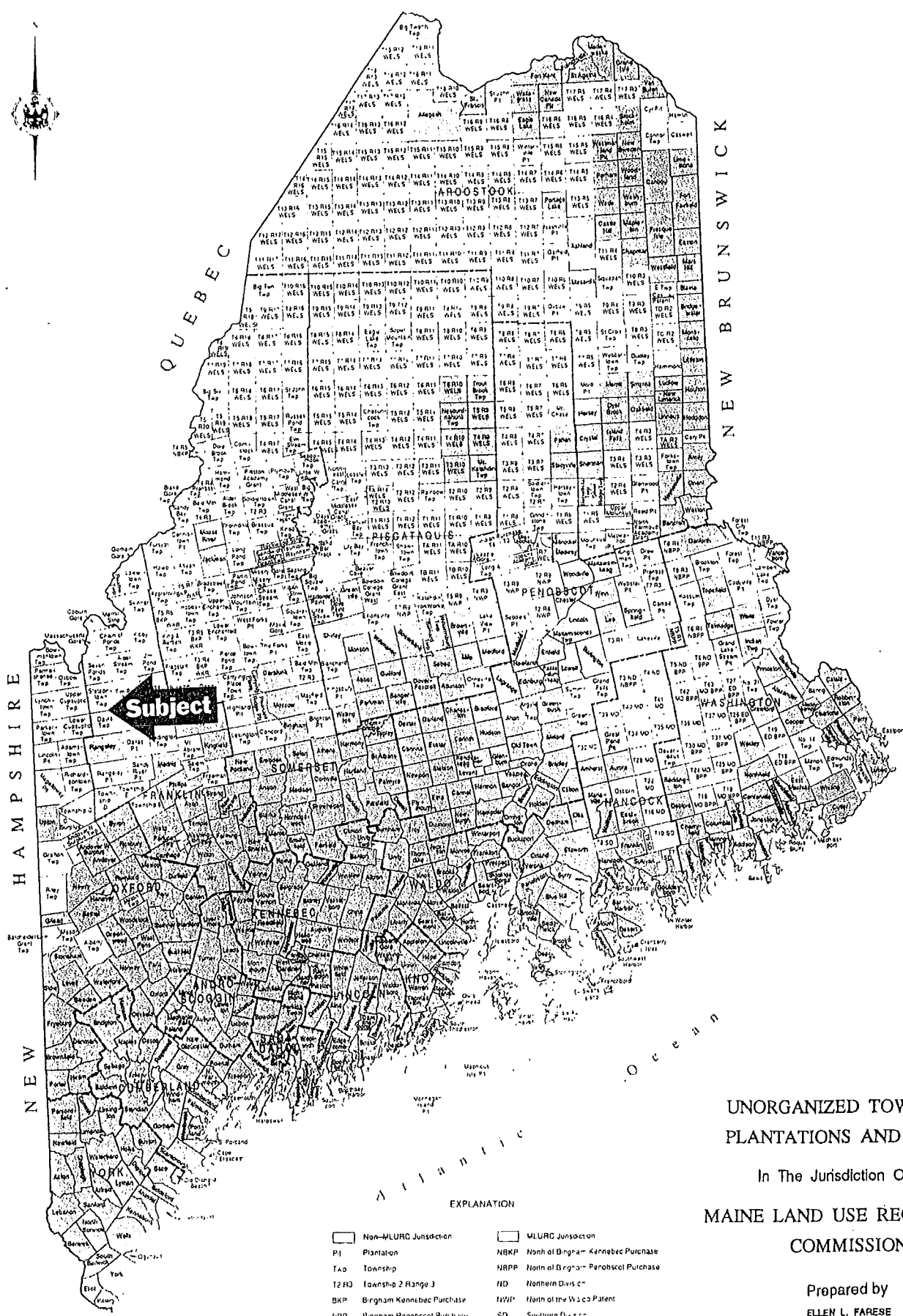
*"Safety of persons & property"*

- No incidents were reported by the Associations or petitioners.

AF/th

Enclosures

xc: File



**Subject**

UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS  
PLANTATIONS AND TOWNS

In The Jurisdiction Of The  
MAINE LAND USE REGULATION  
COMMISSION

EXPLANATION

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Non-MLUR Jurisdiction          | MLUR Jurisdiction                           |
| P1 Plantation                  | NBKP North of Bingham - Kennebec Purchase   |
| TAD Township                   | NBPP North of Bingham - Penobscot Purchase  |
| T2R3 Township 2 Range 3        | ND Northern Division                        |
| BKP Bingham Kennebec Purchase  | NWP North of the West Point                 |
| HPP Bingham Penobscot Purchase | SD Southern Division                        |
| ED Eastern Division            | WELS West of the Eastern Shore of the State |
| MD Madoc Division              | WWR West of the Westward River              |

Revised 11/93

Prepared by  
ELLEN L. FARESE  
April 1992

# DETAIL LOCUS MAP

## Kennebago Lake & River Davis and Stetsontown Townships, Franklin County

