

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 West Grand Lake, Grand Lake Stream Plantation, T5 ND BPP, T6 ND BPP, and T6 R1 NBPP, Washington County

Attached please find a proposal submitted by the Assessors of Grand Lake Stream Plantation to prohibit the operation of personal watercraft (PWCs) on West Grand Lake. This proposal does not include Junior, Scraggly, Pocumcus, or Big Lakes. Please note that Junior *Bay* is considered part of West Grand 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 West Grand Lake PWC prohibition

This proposal was initiated as a petition by the Plantation Assessors in 1999. This petition was one of two that the Commission considered at its September, 1999 meeting in Presque Isle, and forwarded to IF&W with no recommendation. The proposal was formally resubmitted in August of this year after being adopted at a July 18, 2000 town meeting with additional information. What is before the Commission is a 1999 petition and a 2000 article passed at town meeting.

West Grand Lake lies within several unorganized townships as well as Grand Lake Stream Plantation so staff distributed notice of this proposal to the 122 property owners within these wholly unorganized townships.

As with the South Branch Lake petition initiated by the Seboeis Plantation Assessors, staff has accepted the town meeting vote and has only sought comment from the landowners in the townships where there is no local government.



The Proposal: Prohibit the operation of PWCs on West Grand Lake:

• **Votes**

Grand Lake Stream Plantation	
1999 petition by property owners & visitors	<i>79 in support</i>
1999 organizational & business letters	<i>11 in support</i>
July, 2000 town meeting (20 residents, 3 non-residents)	<i>Article passed</i>
Townships mailing	
September, 2000, mailing (122 property owners)	<i>20 support (2 repeats from petition) 15 oppose / 9 AODL</i>
October, 2000 petition	<i>74 opposed (8 repeats from above)</i>
	<u>20 owners support in townships</u> (16% of owners)

• **Enforcement**

The Plantation has engaged the services of a full-time resident who is a retired United States Coast Guard Warrant Officer to be the local contact for enforcement. The town will post signage at the local landing with the phone number of the town office.

• **Criteria**

I have summarized the material submitted by the Assessors, as well general information that we maintain in our files that speaks to the following criteria:

"Use to which waters are put"

- West Grand Lake is used principally for fishing and boating.
- There is one public boat launch facility located in the Plantation.
- The lake is a Management Class 3 lake, which is accessible and developed.
- In 1991 there were 105 dwellings on the lake, with development concentrated at the southeastern end of the lake in the Plantation.

"Depth of water"

- West Grand Lake is 14,340 acres in size.
- The average depth is 37 feet and the maximum depth, 128 feet.

"Amount of water-borne traffic"

- West Grand Lake is part of the Junior, Pocumcus, and Scraggly Lake chain and serves a wide range of boat traffic in terms of size and extent. It is a widely used body of water.

"Wildlife and environmental values"

- On the 1991 wildlands lakes assessment, West Grand Lake is a lake of statewide significance with five outstanding ratings in fisheries, wildlife, scenic, shoreline, and cultural resource values.
- The fisheries rating is based on high abundance and diversity of species.
- The fishery is rated as being under a high degree of pressure as well as being the region's most important resource in terms of economic impact.
- The fishing experience is listed as a high aesthetic experience, being among the best fishing experiences in the region in terms of "scenery, solitude, and other amenities."
- There are listed eagle nesting sites in the Junior Bay area of the lake.

"Noise"

- Several property owners noted that quietness is central to their enjoyment of the lake.
- There was some information presented that the noise associated with personal water craft is not compatible with local industries, including a recording studio and annual folk art festival.

"Traditional uses"

- The principal use of the lake is fishing and boating.
- Grand Lake Stream and the surrounding area support 10 different sets of traditional Maine sporting camps and 30 active registered Maine Guides.
- The Grand Lake Stream Conservation Association ("Guides Association") is formally supportive of the proposed ban.

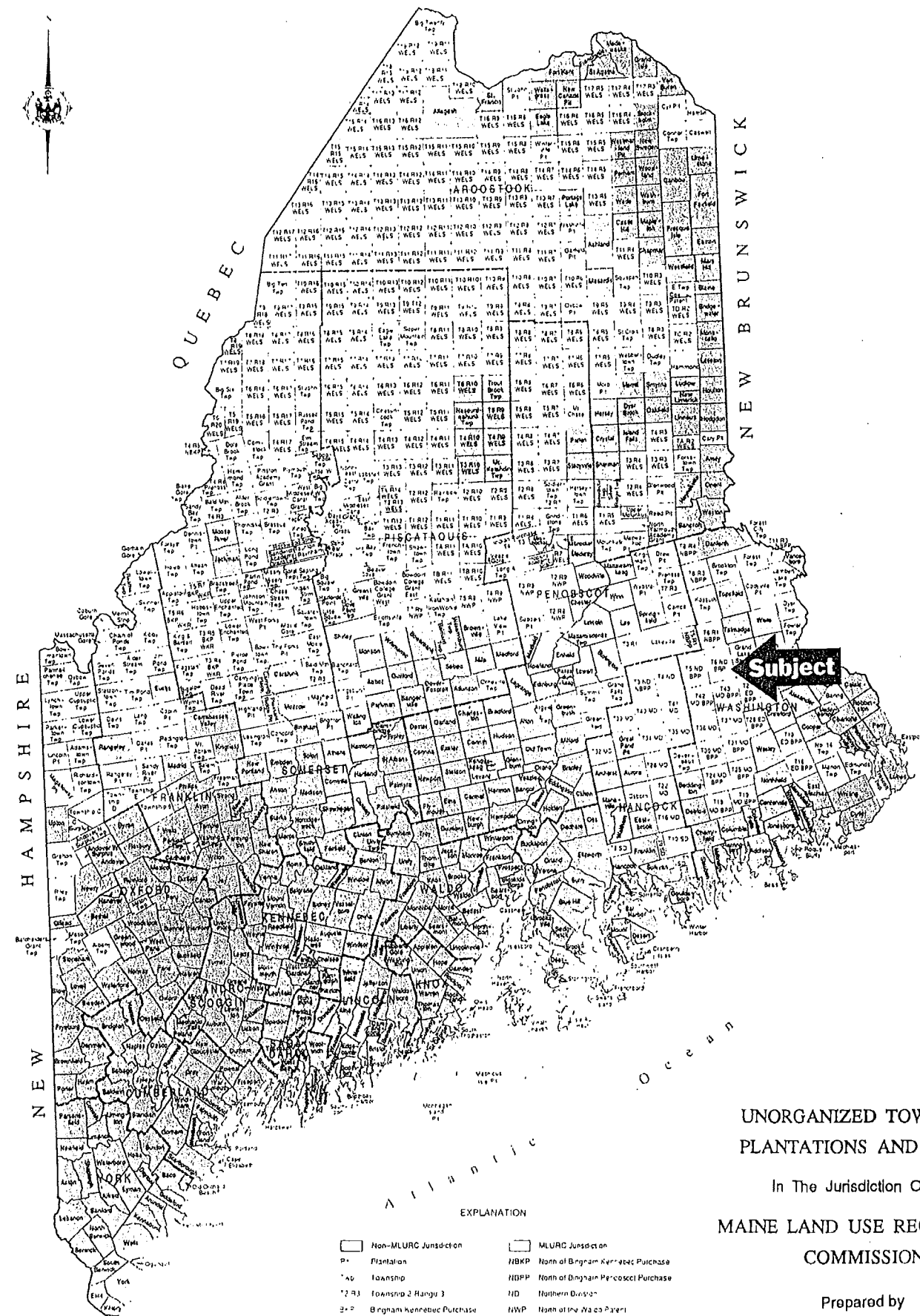
"Safety of persons & property"

- Several incidents of operating rules were reported by commentators, as well two "close-calls" between fisherman and personal watercraft.

AF/th

Enclosures

xc: File



NEW BRUNSWICK

HAMPSHIRE

NEW

Subject

UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIPS
PLANTATIONS AND TOWNS

In The Jurisdiction Of The

MAINE LAND USE REGULATION
COMMISSION

Prepared by
ELLEN L. FARESE
April 1992

EXPLANATION

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| □ Non-MLURC Jurisdiction | □ MLURC Jurisdiction |
| P+ Plantation | NBKP North of Bingham Kennebec Purchase |
| *40 Township | NBPP North of Bingham Percosset Purchase |
| 12 R3 Township 2 Range 3 | ND Northern Division |
| B+P Bingham Kennebec Purchase | NWP North of the Wallace Purchase |
| BPP Bingham Percosset Purchase | SD Southern Division |
| EE Eastern Division | WELS West of the East Longfellow State |
| WC Western Division | AKR West of the Kennebec River |

Revised 11/93

DETAIL LOCUS MAP

West Grand Lake Grand Lake Stream Plantation, T5 ND BPP, T6 ND BPP, and T6 R1 NBPP, Washington County

