



Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat Rule

Protect Maine's water, land, and wildlife and the economic opportunities they provide

Maine's water, land, and wildlife are the heartbeat of Maine people and Maine's economy

Protecting inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat is essential to supporting the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that Maine's environment provides to all of us

- Significant Wildlife Habitat, including wading bird and waterfowl habitat, is the designation given in Maine law to the most valuable land and water for Maine wildlife
- Healthy freshwater wetlands are rich in biodiversity and offer critical feeding, nesting, and staging areas that are essential to the food web and to Maine's hunting and fishing economy



Maine's fish and wildlife are not only a source of recreation but also integral to Maine's economy

- Maine ranks sixth nationally when comparing the percentage of people who participate in hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife-related outdoor recreation¹
- A University of Maine report estimated that fish and wildlife-related recreation contributes over one billion dollars annually in economic output to the state² – that's over four times the output of the ski and snowboard industry³ and three times the combined sales of Maine's potato and blueberry industries⁴
- Inland wading bird and waterfowl wetlands are great places for wildlife watching, and waterfowl watching is big business. The total wildlife-watching economic impact for Maine in 2001 was estimated at \$865 million⁵



The Board of Environmental Protection has developed a rule that has satisfied sportsmen, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the environmental community

- The Board of Environmental Protection heard extensive testimony, deliberated carefully, and voted unanimously to support the revised rule.
- This rule significantly relaxes development restrictions but at the same time protects the most important parts of waterfowl wetlands
- While the rule could be stronger, it is a reasonable compromise and we need to give it time to work, not weaken it further

Pass the Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat Rule and protect the economic opportunities provided by Maine's water, land, and wildlife

For more information you may contact Nick Bennett at 207 430-0116 or nbennett@nrcm.org, or Jenn Gray at 207-798-2900 or jgray@maineaudubon.org

Maine Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 27 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides for all of us.

American Lung Association of Maine
Appalachian Mountain Club
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Environment Maine
Environment Northeast
Friends of Casco Bay
Maine Audubon
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Congress of Lake Associations
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited
Maine Conservation Alliance
Maine Interfaith Power and Light
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Rivers
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Product Policy Institute of Maine
RESTORE: The North Woods
Sierra Club Maine
The Ocean Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Toxics Action Center

¹ *US Fish and Wildlife Service, 2001*

² *State of Maine, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land and Water Quality, April 2011*

³ *Ski Maine Association, as referenced by the Bureau of Land and Water Quality, April 2011*

⁴ *Maine Department of Agriculture, as referenced by the Bureau of Land and Water Quality, April 2011*

⁵ *US Fish and Wildlife Service, as referenced by the Bureau of Land and Water Quality, April 2011*