



Strengthen Maine's Lake Protection Programs

Protecting Maine's lakes will protect our economy and communities.

“Maine must have a strong program to protect our lakes, which are so vital to Maine people and the countless visitors who come annually to Maine for lake experiences that cannot be found elsewhere.”

- *Ginger Jordan-Hillier, Monmouth*

Maine has some of the most scenic and valued lakes in the nation, yet the water quality is declining

- Maine's lakes generate at least \$3.5 billion in economic activity annually and help sustain 52,000 jobs.
- Lakefront property values are closely related to water quality, and those property values strongly affect town budgets and services statewide.
- A recent report revealed that the water quality in Maine's lakes is deteriorating, with water clarity declining since 1995.
- Many of Maine lakes are close to a “tipping point” that could result in rapid loss of water quality.



Lake protection efforts have weakened in recent years.

- Over the past 40 years, Mainers have worked hard to protect the quality of Maine lakes and the Maine DEP once had one of the strongest lake protection programs in the nation.
- Today, DEP's lake protection program is at its weakest point in more than a decade due to decline in staff and resources and elimination of programs.

The Legislature can help strengthen the safety net for Maine lakes.

- Rep. McCabe's “Act to Protect Maine Lakes” strengthens DEP's lake program by focusing its responsibilities in education, research, enforcement, water quality, and habitat protection.
- The bill helps protect water quality by banning the application of fertilizer, herbicide, pesticide or soil-amendments within 25 feet of a lake.
- Enforcement of existing laws that protect vegetated buffers around Maine lakes will be improved through development of photographic records of Maine shorelines.
- The bill also will enhance training for code enforcement officers, create a new certification program for landscape contractors, and develop strategies to reduce runoff from camp roads and strengthen the LakeSmart program for lakefront property owners.

The Legislature should pass Rep. Jeff McCabe's bill:

An Act to Protect Maine Lakes

*For more information, please contact Pete Didisheim, 430-0113, pdidisheim@nrcm.org
or Rebecca Kurtz, Rkurtz@mainelakessociety.org*



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 28 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.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine's economy can thrive.

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