

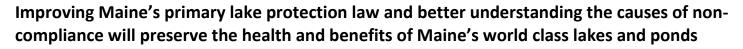
## **Protect Maine Lakes**

Ensure that Maine's \$3.5 billion lake legacy - quality of life, drinking water sources and freshwater habitat - endures to benefit future generations

"The people of the State of Maine always should keep in mind that they are the actual owners of the lakes of Maine and of the water contained in them. These lakes and this water are public property of inestimable value." **Percival P. Baxter** 

## The water quality of Maine lakes and ponds exhibits widespread, measurable declines

- The clarity of many Maine lakes and ponds declined as much as 20% in the fifteen years between 1995 and 2010, as documented by a University of Maine satellite survey<sup>1</sup>.
- The Maine Department of Environmental Protection has listed 10% of Maine's great ponds as "at risk," meaning these valuable resources will become impaired in as little as 20-40 years if land use in their watersheds doesn't improve<sup>2</sup>.
- Continued declines would jeopardize Maine's lake portfolio:
  - \$3.5 billion in annual economic activity
  - Drinking water supplies for 50% of Maine residents
  - o 52,000 jobs
  - Outstanding recreational opportunities
  - Support for municipal services derived from lakefront property tax revenues
  - o The health and wellbeing of people, businesses, and communities dependent upon Maine lakes<sup>3</sup>.





- Pass the Act to Protect Maine Lakes to ensure that the 100 foot development setback area is observed when permitted new construction requires foundations.
- Pass the Act to Protect Maine Lakes to ensure that permitted construction within the 100 foot setback area does not cause erosion and sedimentation that pollute lake water.
- Review noncompliance records to understand barriers to lawful land use and report back to the Legislature on findings by January, 2016.

## Pass the "Act to Protect Maine Lakes"

Sponsored by Representative Gary Hilliard

For more information, contact Maggie Shannon at msshannon@mainelakessociety.org or 207- 495-2301

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> McCullough, I; Lofting, C; and Sader, S; Landsat imagery reveals declining clarity of Maine's lakes during 1995–2010; Freshwater Science, 32(3):741-752.2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 2012 ME DEP 303b list: http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/monitoring/305b/2012/report-final.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Boyle, K.J., J. Schuetz, and S. Kahl. 1997. Great Ponds Play an Integral Role in Maine's Economy. REP 473, Water Research Institute, University of Maine.



## Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 31 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.

Acadia Center Maine Lakes Society

Appalachian Mountain Club Maine Organic Farmers and

Atlantic Salmon Federation Gardeners Association

Bicycle Coalition of Maine Maine People's Alliance

Conservation Law Foundation Maine Rivers

Environmental Health Strategy Center Maine Wilderness Guides

Environment Maine Organization

Friends of Casco Bay Natural Resources Council of Maine

Islesboro Island Trust Physicians for Social Responsibility,

Maine Association of Maine Chapter

Conservation Commissions RESTORE: The North Woods

Maine Audubon Sierra Club, Maine Chapter

Maine Center for Economic Policy The Ocean Conservancy

Maine Conservation Alliance The Trust for Public Land

Maine Council of Churches The Wilderness Society

Maine Council of Trout Unlimited Toxics Action Center

Maine Interfaith Power & Light Upstream

350 Maine