

MacNeil, Jami

From: MacNeil, Jami
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 4:20 PM
To: Elizabeth and Gordon Davis
Subject: RE: Spinney Dock Proposal on the northern section of the tidal estuary of the Sheepscot River

Ms. Davis,

Thank you for your comments regarding the construction of a boat ramp and pier system in Alna as proposed by Jeffrey Spinney. The Department is currently reviewing the application under Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act. The Department accepted the application for processing on September 9, 2019. The application is currently on Hold but the Department is still working towards issuing a final decision. Written comments will be accepted until a decision is issued.

Your comments will be added to the file and will be considered during the review of the project. The Department's record, which includes the application of specific interest to you, is available to be viewed at any time. Feel free to contact the Department's File Room at (207) 287-7843 to request a day and time that is convenient for you to view the record.

You may contact me with additional concerns, questions, or comments. I can be reached at (207) 446-4894 or via email at jami.macneil@maine.gov.

Sincerely,

-Jami MacNeil

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From: Elizabeth and Gordon Davis <egdavis414@roadrunner.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:35 PM
To: MacNeil, Jami <Jami.MacNeil@maine.gov>; Jay.L.Clement@usace.army.mil
Subject: Spinney Dock Proposal on the northern section of the tidal estuary of the Sheepscot River

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To Whom It May Concern,

As a resident of the Town of Alna, I am concerned about the proposed dock system upriver from us in Sheepscot. My husband and I live on the west side of the Sheepscot River in Alna. Our home overlooks the river and the Sheepscot Bridge, so we have a perfect vantage point to view the activity of the wildlife and the ebb and flow of the tide throughout the four seasons. We also enjoy seeing the kayakers, some of whom come to enjoy the waves of the Reversing Falls, and canoeists who enjoy the river in the warmer months of the year. On occasion, we see the odd power boat meandering along.

From our fifty odd years spent in Sheepscot Village we have noted few power boats above the Reversing Falls, often not even at the rate of one per day at the height of summer. The Sheepscot River from Head Tide to Sheepscot Village is plied 99.9% of the time by canoeists and kayakers. I quote from an October article in the

Lincoln County News: "Several years ago, my friend and I paddled the river from Head Tide to the bridge in Sheepscot Village. It had been a dry summer, so we had to carry the canoe through nearly empty sections of the river. However, in deeper places paddling was lovely. Paddling the river gave me a sense of the Sheepscot's scope. Birds abound, as do amphibians."

We recall the days when salmon fishermen fished regularly at the Reversing Falls before the salmon became threatened. The Salmon Federation along with the Midcoast Conservancy have taken measures to restore the salmon in the Sheepscot. It is my fear that a power boat "docking station" as apparently proposed upriver toward Head Tide would be detrimental to this restoration. Also, this would threaten other fish that live in its waters such as striped bass, smelt, and sturgeon. The flora and fauna as well as the water life could be adversely affected by fumes from power boats and the effluent of any leaked gasoline from them. Also, the oversized docking system as apparently proposed where power boats could either tie up or launch and pull out would be detrimental to the shoreline.

Boating on the river north of the Railway Trestle in Wiscasset with its low clearance at High Tide can be a challenge to boaters due to the strong currents and eddies, and the narrow winding channel of the river as it wends its way northward to Sheepscot. This seems to restrict the number of boats that avail themselves of boating on the estuary north of the Railway Trestle other than the very few residents who have a dock on the estuary between the RR Trestle and the Reversing Falls. Power boating above the Reversing Falls is even more of a challenge. A minimal number of boats venture beyond the Falls except at High Tide because of judging when to best cross them before it becomes impossible for a power boat to do so as the tide goes out. We have only noted one or two power boats that appear to be from the north of the Sheepscot Bridge which means they have to judge when to return across the Falls.

Kayaks and canoes lend themselves well to both the Dyer and the Sheepscot to the north of the Falls leaving no lasting effect on the riverbanks or the wildlife and plants. This I fear, would not be the case if many more power boats use the section of the river from the Reversing Falls to Head Tide than do at present. Let us help preserve this section of river for future generations to enjoy as it is now.

There are other options for power boaters where boating for them would better meet their recreational needs than on the Sheepscot River from the Reversing Falls to Head Tide.

Respectfully submitted
Helen Elizabeth Davis
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