

MacNeil, Jami

From: MacNeil, Jami
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 1:49 PM
To: Del Merritt
Subject: RE: Public Comment: Proposed Permanent Boat Launch and Dock in the Lower Reach of the Sheepscot River

Dear Mr. Merritt,

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 statutory deadline for the Department to reach a final decision on the application is January 7, 2020; however, the goal date for a decision is November 15, 2019. Written comments will be accepted until a decision is issued.

Your comments will be added to the file and your concerns 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

Environmental Specialist III
Bureau of Land Resources
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
(207) 446-4894 | jami.macneil@maine.gov

From: Del Merritt <del@the-merritts.net>
Sent: Monday, October 07, 2019 9:23 AM
To: MacNeil, Jami <Jami.MacNeil@maine.gov>; jay.l.clement@usace.army.mil
Cc: Jody Jones <jody@midcoastconservancy.org>
Subject: Public Comment: Proposed Permanent Boat Launch and Dock in the Lower Reach of the Sheepscot River

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I am writing to voice my opposition to the application by Jeff Spinney of 126 Golden Ridge Road, Alna, ME, for a "Permanent Boat Launch and Separate Dock/Ramp/Float with Permanent Support Piling" on the Sheepscot River.

I am a landowner and river abutter in North Newcastle at what is commonly known as "The Bend". My property is also under a conservation easement with the Midcoast Conservancy (formerly the SVCA, "Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association"). To date this portion of the river has not seen major boating traffic since pre-colonial and colonial times. It is pristine and home to a variety of protected or endangered plant and animal species.

There are a variety of existing locations on this section of the river - the section from Sheepscot Village to Head Tide - that support launching of human-powered watercraft. Such boats do little to no harm to the river and adjacent surroundings; they are also more suited to the generally shallow nature of the river in this region. Powered craft of any sort will pose risks due to inevitable fuel and emissions leaks, high-velocity travel around delicate plant and marine life, and introduce excessive noise in the area.

Thanks for your considerations of my comments. If you could add me to any email notification lists concerning any future public hearings on this application I would appreciate it.

Sincerely,

-Del Merritt

20 Phil's Hill Rd, Newcastle, ME 04553

del@the-merritts.net