



Advocacy, Education, and Action to Protect Maine Lakes  
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**Black Lives Matter**  
**Maine Lakes Statement on Racism and Equality**  
**July 1, 2020**

We condemn racism in any form, and we pledge to do what we can to eliminate the impacts from systemic and pervasive racism. We condemn the countless murders of Black people and the many lives lost to racial violence. Black lives matter.

This is a pivotal time in our culture, when organizations well outside the realm of political and social action must step up and speak to racism. As a science-based conservation organization that works on lake health for all of Maine's residents and visitors, our work is tied directly to the environmental and climate justice movements, which are increasingly recognized as supporting and embracing racial justice. We recognize that disparity exists between Black and white communities for access to lakes, clean drinking water and lake education programming, and that disastrous impacts from a changing climate fall disproportionately on poorer communities and communities of color.

Maine Lakes is committed to broadening representation on our board and in our membership so that Black, Brown, Indigenous and other voices help direct our work; to expanding our lake education and outdoor programming to ensure we reach underserved communities where access to lakes may be limited or nonexistent; to consider equity and race issues when developing policy approaches and tactics related to lake and water issues; and to ensuring our staff and board review and follow equity and inclusion policies for our organization.

To promote all of these ends, the President will appoint an environmental justice committee as a standing committee of the board of directors, and a new seat will be added to the advisory board for a person with expertise in that area.