



Santa Clara Town Planning Board
5359 State Route 30
Saranac lake, NY 12983

August 17, 2021

RE: Carrying Capacity

Thank you for addressing the USFs comments at yesterday's Planning Board Meeting on Carrying Capacity. I thought I would take this opportunity to provide some additional information. While I understand the Boards reluctance to include capacity in Marina regulations, the issue is being addressed nationwide and should be considered in some way for Fish Creek Pond and USL. I also think this issue should have at least been brought to attention of the Special Committee by the Chazen Company. By recommending that marinas conduct and submit a comprehensive analysis to assess the waterbodies' capacity could alleviate a burden and responsibility for the Town.

A large range of water recreational carrying capacity standards have been developed by different agencies across the United States. Ohio utilizes a standard of 7.5 acres of lake surface for each operating motor boat, Wisconsin 8 to 20 acres, and Vermont 10 to 20 acres depending on the boating activity.

New York State Office of Parks and Recreation (NYSOPR) recommends a standard of between 6 to 8 acres per boat for power and sail boating in its Statewide Comprehensive Recreational Plan of 1986. More recent studies (Mallets Bay on Lake Champlain, 1989) indicate that professional recreational planners are increasing the range of acres per boat to between 15 to 40 acres. This is attributed to the increased size and speed of boats.

The more recent version of NYSOPR has the following space requirements for boats:

- Sailboat 6-8 acres Powerboats 6-8 acres
- Waterskiing 15-20 acres Fishing Anchor 0.3-0.5 acres
- Rowboats 1 acre Fishing Trolling 1 acre

Accepted boat traffic minimum density levels of 13 acres per boat is the standard used by the Lake George Park Commission.

In addition to Lake George Recreational Study link provided in the July 1 USFs comments, below are additional links for information:

Boat Traffic Assessment completed for the **Town of Harrietstown Planning Board**. This assessment was done in preparation of the Lower Saranac Lake Marina expansion. The carrying capacity of 22 acres/boat was arrived at through this study and evaluation. http://www.saranaclakemarina.com/uploads/2/5/3/0/25306104/boating_assessment_for_saranacs.pdf

It should be noted that this document points out that: *"For private projects NYSDEC does not regulate the size or configuration of docks in relation to the amount of boat traffic that would be generated."* This

would be the Towns obligation. *“NYSDEC regulates private dock facilities from the standpoint of making sure that such facilities do not impede navigation on navigable waters.”*

Boat Inventory and Carrying Capacity Analysis – Canandaigua Lake https://dce89561-713d-4cb6-9bcb-44b759ca4272.filesusr.com/ugd/a5c0cd_0d4e65cd7cd04e2591fcaf1731b4be46.pdf

NYS Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) Boat Counts and Boating Recreation Inventory: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/cslapboater.pdf

Techniques for Estimating Boating Capacity – A literature Review: <http://www.trpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2005-Bosley-techniques-for-estimating-carrying-capacity.pdf>

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Working together, we can preserve and protect the Upper Saranac Lake watershed.