



State of New Hampshire

New Hampshire General Court

COMMITTEE ON FISH & GAME

Dennis F. Abbott
Chairman, Newmarket
Rockingham District 12

Room 307, Legislative Office Building
Concord, N.H. 03301
603-271-3126

Sandown Planning Board
PO Box 1756
Sandown, NH 03873

Planning Board Members,

I write this letter in support of the draft Wetlands and Surface Waters Conservation District Ordinance which I understand is being considered by the board. My support not only recognizes your need and desires to protect the natural resources within your community but I know there is a strong relationship between what you do far upstream of the Great Bay estuary and the health of that valuable part of the seacoast region.

My particular concern, and the principal reason for this letter, is related to the ecological condition and future health of Great Bay. Besides being a legislator I have been the legislature's representative to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) which cooperatively manages inshore fisheries with the other 15 states along the east coast for the mutual benefit of all the states. Nutrient loading, siltation, runoff and other negatives has greatly affected our fish stocks which in part rely on the health of nursery areas like Great Bay. Estuaries play a vital part in the overall health and vitality of numerous species, either directly or indirectly. This vitality has many benefits to us all and too numerous to mention and benefits I'm sure the Board fully understands.

I sincerely hope that you protect your resource which in turn will protect and enhance the greater resource for the benefit of all of our citizens in the state of New Hampshire and beyond.

Respectfully,

Rep. Dennis F. Abbott
Chair, House Fish, Game and Marine Resources Committee
Legislative Commissioner, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission