

Fairness for Clear Lake

Fairness for Clear Lake is Withdrawing the Judicial Review & Ramping Up Advocacy

We want to share a transparent update on Fairness for Clear Lake's decision to withdraw the judicial review related to the May 2025 watercraft ban on Clear Lake. Put simply, in our view, the judicial review has already accomplished what it needed to.

The judicial review was never about litigation for its own sake. It was about speaking up for transparency and accountability, pushing for more collaboration and engagement from park management, and forcing clarity around how and why a major decision affecting Clear Lake was made without public or stakeholder consultation.

Through the judicial review, we achieved full document disclosure. For the first time, the community was able to see how Parks Canada's decision unfolded internally. This transparency fundamentally changed the conversation and confirmed concerns many in the community had raised from the start. In that sense, we believe we've already won.

The landscape has shifted in other meaningful ways as a result of our community's advocacy:

- A new RMNP superintendent is in place, actively engaging with the community and working to rebuild trust.
- A draft Terms of Reference now exists, outlining a framework for community consultation. This is something we have long been calling for.
- RMNP's engagement, governance, and decision-making processes are more structured and defensible than they were at the time of the May 2025 ban.
- Most importantly, we believe the current superintendent has laid the groundwork for a future decision that could see boats return to Clear Lake in a way that is fair, defensible, and durable even in the face of a potential legal challenge. For that work to succeed, the RMNP superintendent will need space, political backing, and support from Parks Canada.

Another factor in our decision was that the original scheduled hearing date of January 28th was moved due to factors out of our control, with the next available date for the hearing being May 21st. Since Parks Canada is expected to have made a watercraft management decision for the 2026 season well before May, the court likely would have declined to decide the case.

We believe that continuing the judicial review would be costly — not just financially, but relationally. At this stage, further litigation risks undermining the trust and working relationships that are beginning to rebuild. Those relationships are essential if we are going to move forward in a meaningful and collaborative way.

Ramping Up Advocacy

You will hear more from us in the coming days as we ramp up our advocacy, calling on Parks Canada to find a viable, balanced path forward to a defensible decision and a One Boat One Lake policy on Clear Lake.