

From: [ANR - WSMD Lakes](#)
To: [Jensen, Kimberly](#)
Subject: FW: Act 57 ANC Study Committee
Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 11:27:11 AM

Thank you,

Kelcie Bean (she/her)

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The Agency of Natural Resources supports telework, and I work primarily remotely. I am available to connect by phone and email.

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 10:32 AM
To: ANR - WSMD Lakes <ANR.WSMDLakes@vermont.gov>
Subject: Act 57 ANC Study Committee

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Hi all, thanks for your work on this, I realize everyone is super busy. Still, I think the law clearly needs some reform to reduce chemical use in our waterways, and I hope this committee's work will lead to that. I am going to drop comments on a range of subjects below, thank you for considering all of them.

1. There's been a lot of focus on ProcellaCOR in this group so far, and by the DEC, but ProcellaCOR is just the latest pesticide that is in vogue. Historically, the DEC and other government bodies have permitted other herbicides that are much more harmful, moving away from them when science caught up with the problems they caused. I would like to see almost no herbicide used in our

waterways, but I'd really like to see a much longer test period than has been standard. The fact that we used to dump SONAR in entire lakes that some folks get drinking water from seems really beyond the pale to me, especially considering the fact that it seems like some new harmful chemical turns up every couple of years.

2. This is nobody's fault in particular, but I really don't think we're studying our lakes enough to have a complete picture of what herbicide application does, especially over years and years like we've seen on St. Catherine. Fish and Wildlife can barely survey gamefish, and there are basically no before and after studies of herps, insects and other animals that might be affected by herbicide use. I'd love to see money budgeted to really understand our lakes before and after herbicide. Right now, some of the lakes that seem the healthiest to me have never had herbicide used in them, which I think should be a major data point.

3. On the subject of lakes being healthy without herbicide, I personally have caught two largemouth bass over 8 pounds on Lake Bomoseen this fall, and one over 7 pounds (those are quite large for Vermont). In 2023, to date, I have caught a total of 15 largemouth bass 6 pounds or bigger in Bomoseen and two smallmouth 6 pounds or bigger. In 2022, I caught five smallmouth over 6 pounds in Bomo, and six largemouth, including one 7-pounder. I personally know two other folks that have caught largemouth bass over 7 pounds and smallmouth over 6 pounds in the last two years in Bomoseen. To my knowledge, there is no other lake in the state producing fish of that caliber with that regularity. I am thrilled that the DEC has issued a draft denial for the permit to use herbicide in Bomoseen, and I'm glad they did a thorough job. However, in my mind, it should have been an open-and-shut case - the idea of hitting such a fishery with chemicals is beyond the pale to me.

4. I really believe that Fish and Wildlife and perhaps other departments should have an equal say with the DEC when it comes to permitting. Historically, Fish and Wildlife has been opposed to most herbicide permits, and the DEC has still approved them. The fact that there has been so much time and effort invested in the issue that this committee exists proves to me that the DEC alone doing the job Vermonters need it to do.

5. I think the public good aspect of the permitting really needs to be evaluated when it comes to milfoil. Milfoil around shoreline docks and the like can be raked out, that's almost equivalent to cutting the grass. Many lakes that have milfoil in them also have plenty of folks using them recreationally. On the fishing side of things, Fish and Wildlife might be able to comment more, but among anglers milfoil is seen as a positive most of the time (I think).

6. A number of the proponents of herbicide have sought to discredit literal scientists and teachers who are against herbicide use, saying that folks against herbicide are anti-science or pedaling misinformation. I personally am not wild about that. I'm sure both sides have overreached a little at times, but I've got my Covid shots and I'm not some sort of anti-technology nutcase. I've just got a different idea about what needs chemical intervention.

7. If the state wants to use herbicide on a lake or situation they've studied well, I'm not categorically opposed. But, I think for an application to even hit the desk of the DEC and Fish and Wildlife it should be either an emergency or a very thoroughly vetted process. In a non-urgent setting, I'd like to see

an organization that wants to spray a lake get support from the towns around the lake before even putting the state government to work. Currently, one organization with realistically just a few folks in positions of power can put a permit application on desks without really consulting any of the local community.

8. A greeter at a ramp up on Harriman told me an idea he had for managing vegetation and I really liked it. He said that the vast majority of vegetation transported from lake to lake came on trailers, which indicated to him that it came from very near launch ramps. I think a roving crew or two could go lake-to-lake in the summer and work to harvest the invasive species from the immediate areas around launch ramps and that might dramatically reduce the amount of invasive species that end up on the road and going elsewhere.

Thanks for your time, I look forward to remaining engaged on this issue,

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