From: ANR - WSMD Lakes
To: Jensen, Kimberly

Subject: FW: Act 57 ANC Study Committee

Date: Thursday, November 9, 2023 6:47:05 PM

Attachments: Act 57 comments.docx

Thank you,

Kelcie Bean (she/her)

You may now submit permit applications, compliance reports and fee payments through our online form to expedite its receipt and review: <u>ANR Online Intake Form</u>



Kelcie Bean (she/her), Environmental Technician

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources | Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management Division | Business & Operation Support Services (BOSS)

1 National Life Drive, Davis 3 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

802-490-6195 (o/c) | <u>Kelcie.bean@vermont.gov</u>

http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed

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

Public Records Statement: Written communications to and from state officials regarding state business are considered public records and may be subject to public scrutiny.

From:

Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 5:26 PM

To: ANR - WSMD Lakes <ANR.WSMDLakes@vermont.gov>

Subject: Act 57 ANC Study Committee

You don't often get email from

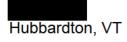
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To the Act 57 Study committee,

Please consider my attached comments in your consideration of the use of herbacides to combat invasive species such as Eurasian Milfoil in Vermont lakes.

Thank you



COMMENTS TO THE ACT 57 STUDY COMMITTEE

My family and I have maintained a seasonal residence on Lake Beebe in Hubbardton since 1985, a period of 38 years.

Our three kids learned to swim, caught their first fish, and enjoyed canoeing and sailing at Lake Beebe.

When the Eurasian milfoil infiltrated the lake, the beauty and usefulness of the lake for recreation were severely impacted. The milfoil created heavy mats of weeds so dense it appeared that one could walk across it.

It was virtually impossible to swim through it. Fish that were caught would sometimes become tangled in the milfoil leading to snapping of the line with the hook or lure unfortunately remaining hooked to the fish.

Boat or canoe oars would be fouled by the milfoil. Electric trolling motors could also not move through it. (Note motor boats are not allowed at Lake Beebe to help maintain the cleanliness of the lake water.)

Also, by the end of the summer the milfoil gave off a very unpleasant smell.

When the milfoil died off as winter approached it would sink to the bottom creating a deep silt (>12") layer on the lake bottom, ready to grow again in the following spring.

Efforts to control the milfoil were attempted by the lake association and residents, mainly pulling by hand using divers or the lake residents themselves. Obviously this was extremely expensive and almost completely ineffective due to the enormous magnitude of the milfoil growth problem.

Mechanical harvesting was never used because we were informed that harvesting created many smaller pieces of the milfoil, multiplying its growth.

Finally, we learned of the development of ProcellaCOR and its successful application at a nearby lake.

We applied for and received approval for a permit to use ProcellaCOR and have applied it twice, separated by a period of one or two years. It was professionally applied in accordance with our permit. Warnings specifying precautions to be taken during the application period were prominently displayed around the lake.

The effect on the lake was dramatic. The lake was restored to its prior beauty, a clean and clear Vermont lake.

All recreational uses such as swimming and boating can be enjoyed as before the milfoil intrusion. Fishing has remained excellent with populations of bass, northern pike, perch, and bluegill. My experience and observation indicate that most fisherman practice catch-and-release.

Our eagle in residence can often be seen grabbing fish from the lake. Maybe he couldn't see them before?

Our followup lake inspections required by our permit indicated near elimination of the invasive Eurasian Milfoil. In fact, its elimination has provided space and light for native plants to thrive.

In summary, as a longtime homeowner I have seen the environmental damage and negative effects of

Eurasion Milfoil takeover of a lake.

The ProcellaCOR process seems to be safe, efficient and cost effective method of eliminating the milfoil from our lake with no adverse (in fact, positive) effects on the lake environment.

I urge the study committee to allow continued, permitted use of the ProcellaCOR process.

Sincerely,

Hubbardton, Vt