



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589



Finding of No Significant Impact:

Proposed Additions to the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (August 2001): A Long-Term Program of Sea Lamprey Control in Lake Champlain

Pursuant to requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to evaluate a proposed expansion of the long-term sea lamprey control program on Lake Champlain.

Two alternative actions were considered:

Alternative 1: Expansion of the sea lamprey control program to include the Little Chazy River and Rea Brook in New York (proposed action).

Alternative 2: Continue the sea lamprey control program without expansion (No Action).

The Lake Champlain sea lamprey control program is a vital component of a multidimensional effort to revitalize native lake trout and landlocked Atlantic salmon populations and provide a quality fishery that benefits the regional economy. When left uncontrolled, invasive sea lamprey quickly multiply, parasitize their preferred trout and salmon host species, and prevent the reestablishment of a healthy fishery. In 2001, after an eight-year experimental program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prepared a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) outlining a long-term program of sea lamprey control for Lake Champlain. Pursuant to CFR 40 1508.28 and 1502.20, this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and EA are tiered documents, which rely on the SEIS. Specific information relating to the proposed action (Alternative 1) is to be considered in addition to the information included in the SEIS.

The Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative will continue its program of Integrated Pest Management whereby lampricide treatments of larval lamprey, physical barriers, and selective trapping of spawning adults are used in concert to reduce the lamprey population in Lake Champlain. Currently, lampricide treatments are conducted or are scheduled on twelve tributaries of Lake Champlain.

Alternative 1 (the proposed action) will expand the ongoing long-term sea lamprey control program by adding two Lake Champlain tributaries where populations of sea lamprey larvae have been recently discovered. While there may be significant impacts, all were addressed in the original SEIS and none are new or unique—only the location of the effects is different.

Alternative 2 would continue the sea lamprey control program as it was outlined in the original SEIS, without any expansion into the Little Chazy River or Rea Brook—tributaries where sea lamprey populations have been recently discovered. The control program would continue at *status quo* levels and wounding rates of native fish may remain unacceptably high.

The proposal has been coordinated with interested and/or affected agencies and organizations. This EA was made available to the public through a press release and public notice and resulting story in local print media. A public review and comment period was provided from October 19, 2017 through November 17, 2017. The public was informed of the availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment, the 2008 EA which previously expanded the program, the original 2001 Final Environmental Impact Statement outlining the long-term control program, and a comprehensive evaluation of the eight-year experimental control program. These documents were posted to the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office's website at <https://www.fws.gov/lcfwro/sealamprey/NEPA.html>

No written, emailed or oral comments were received during the open period.

Based on a review and evaluation of the information contained in the EA and the lack of public comments received, I have determined that Alternative 1 (Expansion of the sea lamprey control program to include the Little Chazy River and Rea Brook in New York) would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed action is not required.

All aforementioned documents and this FONSI are available upon request from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 11 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction, VT 05452, or by phone: (802) 662-5304.



Andrew Milliken, Project Leader

1/2/2018

Date



Sherry White, Assistant Regional Director

1-5-18

Date