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LAKE CHAMPLAIN FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE WILL TREAT FOUR RIVERS TO CONTROL SEA LAMPREY POPULATIONS

The Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative (Cooperative) will be controlling larval sea lamprey populations using lampricides on four Lake Champlain tributaries during the months of September and October.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department will be treating portions of four Vermont tributaries as part of the Cooperative's long-term sea lamprey control program for Lake Champlain: Winooski River, Missisquoi River, LaPlatte River, and Lamoille River. Federal and State permits for the application of lampricide are required and obtained prior to treatments. Treatments are scheduled to begin with Winooski River on September 23rd. Treatment dates are always contingent on weather and may change with short notice.

While trout and salmon are the primary beneficiaries of these efforts, lake sturgeon, walleye, and many other species also benefit from sea lamprey control. Sea lamprey control also generates economic activity by increasing angling opportunities and the time that boaters, anglers, and their families spend in the Lake Champlain area.

Annual assessments continue to show improvements to the lake's fish populations, with lower wounding rates and increased numbers of older larger salmon and lake trout. However, wounding rates remain above target levels. Ongoing program initiatives to enhance the effectiveness of control efforts are underway that will further reduce the sea lamprey population and reduce their impacts on Lake Champlain's fish populations.

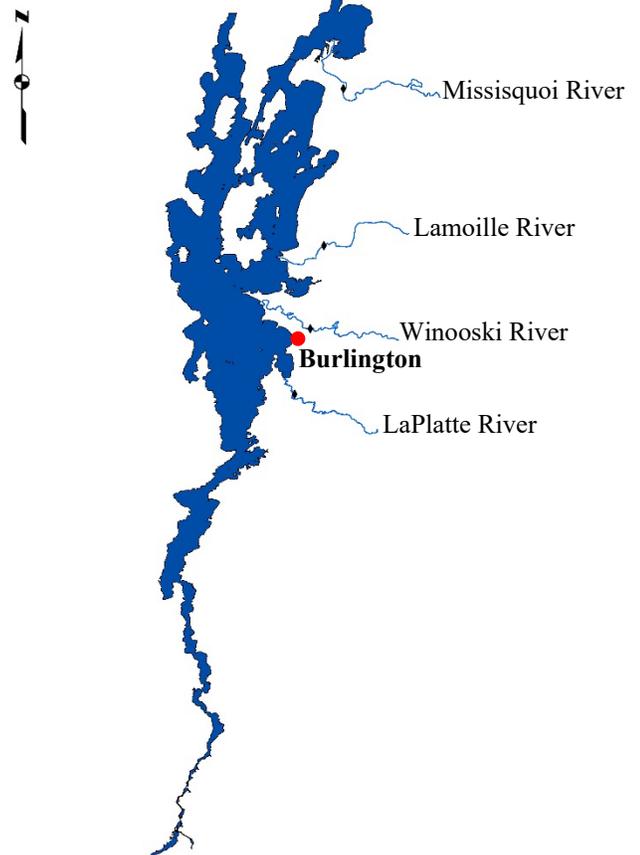
Larval sea lamprey live in rivers and on river deltas for about four years before transforming to their parasitic phase and emigrating to Lake Champlain where their effect on the fishery becomes apparent. One of the Cooperative's Integrated Pest Management approaches is to apply selective pesticides (lampricides) to rivers and deltas in prescribed and precise concentrations. The concentrations used are carefully chosen and monitored to ensure effective elimination of sea lamprey larvae and protection of non-target species. TFM (3-trifluoromethyl-4-nitrophenol) will be applied in the rivers for 12-14 hours depending on environmental conditions.

Temporary (typically 1-4 days depending on local conditions at the time of treatment) water-use advisories will be in effect for each of the treatments to minimize human exposure to affected waters. Both the New York and Vermont Departments of Health recommend that the treated river and lake water not be used for drinking, swimming, fishing, irrigation, or livestock watering while the advisories are in effect.

The treatments and water-use advisories will have no effect on most residents in the Champlain Basin. Landowners with property in the affected areas have already been identified and informed by letter of planned treatments this fall and asked if they or their livestock use water from a surface supply that will be affected by the treatment. Days before the treatments begin, another letter will be sent to inform residents of the impending treatment and to arrange any water usage accommodations.

Local broadcast and print media will be provided with specific dates when advisories begin and expire. The treatment schedule is subject to change as weather conditions, stream flows, or logistical issues may arise during the treatments. Residents will be kept apprised of any such changes through these media. Communities and residents that utilize the following bodies of water should consult the advisory table.

Our toll-free number (888-596-0611) and website (fws.gov/champlainlamprey) provide information on specific dates, locations, progress reports, and water use advisories for each treatment.



Vermont Tributaries to Lake Champlain

Tentative Treatment Dates	Rivers	Vermont Towns	WATER USE ADVISORY AREAS		
			Application Point to River Mouth (Miles)	Lake Shore North of River Mouth (Miles)	Lake Shore South of River Mouth (Miles)
09/23/2020	Winooski River	Winooski, Burlington, Colchester	10.5	2.3	2.3
10/06/2020	Missisquoi River	Swanton, Highgate, St. Armand (Quebec)	7.8	4.2	3.6
10/13/2020	LaPlatte River	Shelburne	3.5	1.5	-
10/20/2020	Lamoille River	Milton, Colchester, South Hero	6.0	3.6*	1.2

*Advisory in this area is to the west of the river mouth

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