

N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

April 1, 2015

Senator Jeb Bradley, Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Room 100, State House
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 281 Defining “exotic aquatic species of wildlife” and Relative to the Duties of the Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee

Dear Chair Bradley and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support for House Bill 281 as amended, defining “exotic aquatic species of wildlife” and expanding the duties of the Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee to recommend a program to control invasive aquatic species of wildlife in New Hampshire.

The RMAC and Rivers Management and Protection Program are concerned with the increasing number of infestations occurring on our rivers and are pleased that the volunteer members of the Program’s Local River Management Advisory Committees (LAC) take an active role educating the public about the impact of invasive species as well as identifying and eradicating these invasive species throughout the State. When either directly or indirectly involved with exotic weeds and species control, the LACs can join other important volunteer groups in following the control techniques and recommendations developed by the Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee to maintain the health and value of the State’s aquatic resources.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is comprised of members from business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, conservation, recreation, fish and game, and historical interests. Among its other responsibilities, the RMAC is charged with reviewing legislation relevant to the Program and with advising the NHDES Commissioner on the merits of such legislation.

In conclusion, the RMAC supports HB 281, which would define “exotic aquatic species of wildlife” and expand the duties of the Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at (603) 466-8149 or kkimball@outdoors.org.

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. Kimball, Ph.D., Chair

cc: Rep. Suzanne Gottling
Rep. Chris Christensen
Rep. Suzanne Smith
Rep. James Grenier
Rep. Judith Spang
Sen. Gerald Little
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark

Thomas Burack, Commissioner, DES
Eugene Forbes, Director, Water Division, DES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., DES
Jacquie Colburn, Rivers Coordinator, DES
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John Magee
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