

**From:** Berry, Patrick  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2012 8:03 PM  
**To:** Allen, Susan; MacLean, Alex; Markowitz, Deb  
**Subject:** FW: Senator Leahy comment on the Spiny Waterflea

**Importance:** High

FYI.

Commissioner Patrick H. Berry  
Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

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**From:** Berry, Tom (Leahy) [Tom\_Berry@leahy.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2012 6:46 PM  
**To:** Berry, Patrick  
**Subject:** FW: Senator Leahy comment on the Spiny Waterflea

Fyi – just sent to Candy Page.

Aggressive action, based on science, with LCBP convening the partners. Short term costs small in any case compared to long term damage. That is the position at this point.

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**From:** Berry, Tom (Leahy)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 25, 2012 6:23 PM  
**To:** Berry, Tom (Leahy)  
**Subject:** Senator Leahy comment on the Spiny Waterflea

Senator Leahy said:

*“The news of another damaging invasive species reaching Lake Champlain is heartbreaking. The parties with the authority and resources to intervene must act quickly and decisively if there is any chance of halting the advance of this menace. If the scientific experts convened by the LCBP confirm that temporary closure of the Champlain Canal can slow the spread of the spiny water flea, then by all means it should be seriously considered and promptly acted upon. We must take every opportunity to avoid the inestimable long-term ecological and economic damage likely to result from a new invasive species reaching the lake.”*

Senator Leahy has worked hard for many years to help protect Lake Champlain from the threats posed by invasive species. Perhaps the most important result has been supporting the Lake Champlain Basin Program as the forum for local, state and federal experts and stakeholders to convene on this and other issues.

In addition Senator Leahy has secured funding for many years to support the response to invasive species threats. With specific reference to the Champlain Canal, over the past few years Senator Leahy has directed the following funding:

\$150,000 through the GLFC in FY2009 that supported for the initial study of spiny water flea by the USFWS, and whether there were measures to be taken to keep it out of the feeder canal.

\$200,000 through the GLFC in FY2010, directed through the LCBP to address invasive species movements through the Champlain Canal to lake Champlain – ideally to be used as match for Army Corps of Engineers funds. The GLFC funding presents an interesting opportunity in that as a result of case specific federal legislation the GLFC funds can be used to “match” US ACE dollars, usually Federal funds cannot “match Federal funds.

\$75,000 in FY2011 through GLFC to support a rapid response capability for invasive species potentially impacting Lake Champlain, through the LCBP Invasive Species Committee.

\$4.5 million currently available within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 542, Lake Champlain Ecosystem Restoration Authority. This is the entire bank account at this time and some funds could be applied to work on invasive species prevention through the Champlain canal. There are other projects, not all of could go to the Champlain canal problem, but certainly a some of it should be available to address the canal, if the necessary partnerships be established.

Of course many additional invasive species programs have been supported including water chestnut eradication in Lake Champlain, Asian clam spread prevention in Lake George and more.