

## **Lamprey TRC Annual Report November 2009**

Presented to His Excellency, Governor John H. Lynch  
NH Senate President, Sylvia Larsen  
Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, Terie Norelli  
Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, Thomas S. Burack  
and the State Library

November 1, 2009

by the  
Lamprey River Technical Review Committee

In compliance with Laws of 2002, Chapter 278, the Lamprey River Technical Review Committee is pleased to submit this annual report of the committee's findings and activities for 2009. This law defines the two committees for each river under the pilot program to advise the Instream Flow process—the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Water Management Area Advisory Committee (WMPAAC). According to Chapter 278, “The instream flow Technical Review Committees shall make annual reports regarding their progress and findings on or before November 1 of each year of their existence to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Governor, the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services, and the state library.”

NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) maintains a website for the Lamprey TRC at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/instream/lamprey/trc.htm>. The website contains the minutes, agendas, and copies of all presentations and documents distributed at the TRC meetings. UNH maintains a Lamprey Instream Flow Project website at <http://www.unh.edu/erg/lamprey/>.

The Lamprey Instream Flow study field work was completed in 2007. Review of the study results began at a meeting in June 2008 and the draft report was available to the committee in September. Committee meetings were held in October and November 13, 2008. At these meetings, DES's consultants, Normandeau Associates, Inc., presented the Proposed Protected Instream Flow Report. Three key areas of assessment were described: surveys for human uses like boating and swimming, floodplain transect method for riparian vegetation and wildlife, and incremental flow-habitat modeling for fish. The incremental assessment method named MesoHABSIM is a habitat simulation model that identifies the availability of habitat based on stream flows for representative fish species. The floodplain transect method compares water levels at a range of stream flows to elevations of riparian vegetation zones on the banks and in the flood plains of the river. Flow needs to sustain the seeding and growth of the native riparian vegetation in these zones will be determined using this method. Human flow interests can be determined using questionnaires and surveys.

The Proposed Protected Instream Flow Report is the document that goes before a public hearing and after revision becomes the Protected Instream Flow Report presented to the Commissioner for establishment as the Designated River's water quality standards. At the November 13, 2008 meeting the committee approved, with reservations, sending the Proposed Protected Instream Flow Report to a public hearing. The committee provided DES with a letter dated February 27, 2009 containing its final comments on the report - [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/instream/lamprey/documents/lamprey\\_pi](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/instream/lamprey/documents/lamprey_pi)

[sf\\_comm\\_trc.pdf](#). On July 13, 2009, the public comment responses and revisions to the report had been completed and the final Lamprey Protected Instream Flow Report was completed. The TRC has completed its required duties, but will continue to be invited to participate in the Water Management Plan development and implementation.

### **Committee Changes**

Vernon Lang retired from the US Fish & Wildlife Service in May 2009. John Warner is his replacement at that agency, but has not officially replaced Mr. Lang on the committee. Carl Paulsen, representing conservation interests, left his position at the Rivers Council and resigned from the committee on July 30, 2009.

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**LAMPREY RIVER TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (TRC)**

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