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Additional Comments, Therese Thompson, June 20, 2011

Lamprey River Water Mgmt Plan

I am a member of:

Lamprey River Water Management Planning Area Advisory Committee

Representing Lake Associations

and a member of

Southeast Watershed Alliance

Representing Nottingham <http://www.southeastwatershedalliance.org/members>

I live in Nottingham, my concerns are the following:

- 1.) Health of Pawtuckaway Lake
- 2.) Health of the Aquatic Life and Habitat of streams, ponds, & marshes that enter the lake (Instream flows = RSA 483)
- 3.) Less Winter Drawdown, how will this affect our native mussels and protection against invasive aquatic plants getting established

With the expansion of the designated Lamprey River to include the major tributaries and the Lamprey below Durham to Great Bay, signed by the Governor on June 7, 2011, More studies need to be done prior to adopting or implementing this Water Mgmt. Plan.

I own property on Pawtuckaway Lake, with the introduction of **alewives** (anadromous fish), into our lake every Spring by NH Marine Fish & Game and the increase in **toxic algal (cyanobacteria) blooms** during the Summer and with the proposed release of water during an extended drought could make these problems worse. As recent as this May 27, 2011, Pawtuckaway State Park beach was closed due to cyanobacteria.

Background information:

Alewives

<http://www.flyfishinginnh.com/vforum/showthread.php?t=3476>

On the Lamprey River, a fish ladder was constructed at Macallen Dam in Newmarket, currently, some of these fish are trapped at the fish ladder, and transported to Pawtuckaway Lake. Alewives nursery habitat upstream from Wiswall Dam is inaccessible to these fish due to the lack of a fish passage at Wiswall Dam.

Cheri Patterson, NH Coastal Fish & Game, presentation 2nd slide, quoted WWF: ***Fragmentation of river systems due to dams is the single greatest threat to the maintenance of ecosystem integrity.***

http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/marine/marine_PDFs/Winnicut_R_diadromous_pres_1108.pdf

Dams

The number of dams in our state is very high, see the presentation from our June 13, 2005 meeting , slide # 24:

http://www.des.state.nh.us/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/instream/lamprey/documents/20050613ipuocr_entities.pdf

Dams are being removed throughout the country, here are a few in NH:

Removal of Winnicut River Dam in Greenland 2009

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/restoration/projects/winnicut.htm>

Removal of Merrimack Village Dam 2008

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/media/videos.html>

Gonic Sawmill Dam & Removal of the Gonic Dam on the Cocheco River

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/restoration/projects/documents/gonic-dams-feasibility-rpt.pdf>

Swanzey, NH: Homestead Woolen Mills dam removal on the Ashuelot River 2008

http://www.fws.gov/r5crc/habitat/fish_passage.htm

Now, Newmarket is discussing the removal of the Macallen Dam

The Bunker Pond Dam in West Epping, was removed this month, I have already seen the effects of this removal, one day a pond in that area was dry, then after a rain, the pond gained water. Therefore, recalculating how much water may need to be removed from Pawtuckaway Lake during an extended May - Oct. drought, will have to be done.