

Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future

Whereas, the Vermont Citizens Advisory Committee on Lake Champlain's Future (VTCAC) meets regularly to gather information and scientific data concerning activities and factors that affect the water quality of Lake Champlain; and

Whereas, the VTCAC has been presented with information that demonstrates significant concerns related to the likely introduction of the destructive invasive species *Neogobius Melanostomus* – the Round Goby, into the Lake Champlain Basin through the Lake Champlain Canal; and

Whereas, the Round Goby has been found in the Hudson River south of the Lake Champlain Canal, presenting an urgent threat to disruption of the ecosystem of Lake Champlain, causing irreparable harm to the fisheries and waterfowl of the basin as vectors for Type E avian botulism, through bioaccumulation of toxics within the food chain, and by outcompeting important sport fishing species, triggering significant economic impacts to the recreation economy in the basin; and

Whereas, the US Army Corps of Engineers is finalizing recommendations from Phase 1 of the Lake Champlain Canal Study of an Invasive Species Barrier, which will likely recommend a permanent fixed barrier near the peak of the Lake Champlain Canal System, with readily available boat lifts and decontamination infrastructure; and

Whereas, the Governor of New York, Hon. Kathleen Hochul and the New York State Canal Corporation control the Lake Champlain Canal System; and

Therefore, the VTCAC has unanimously approved the following request to Governor Phil Scott and the Vermont Legislature:

Resolved, that the VTCAC hereby requests that the Governor of Vermont and the Vermont Legislature formally request that Governor Hochul and the NYS Canal Corporation temporarily close one lock south of the peak elevation of the Lake Champlain Canal system to prevent the introduction of the Round Goby until a permanent all-taxa barrier is approved, funded, and constructed with the Army Corps study recommendations.

Approved March 14, 2022

Submitted by Mark Naud, Chair