



Lake George Association

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NEWS RELEASE

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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake George Association Endorses New Classification System to Protect Forests, Farmlands and Waterways from Non-native Plants and Animals

LAKE GEORGE, NY – (May 11, 2010)

The Lake George Association has issued a comment letter in support of a proposal unveiled last month by the state Invasive Species Council, and urges others to support the proposal as well.

For the first time, New York would classify non-native plants and animals to help prevent the spread of invasive species through waterways, forests and farmlands.

The Council's draft report, "A Regulatory System for Non-Native Species," calls for a multi-pronged approach to tackling one of the state's fastest growing environmental threats. The proposed new assessment system for invasive species – such as zebra mussels, Sirex wood wasps and Eurasian milfoil – that would allow the state to categorize them as "prohibited," "regulated" or "unregulated." Such a classification system would help restrict movement of potentially harmful plants and animals.

The Council released the draft report for public comment through May 14. Following finalization, the report will be sent to Governor David A. Paterson and the state Legislature for possible action.

As an organization with 125 years of experience in protecting and conserving Lake George, the LGA is in support of the Council's non-native species proposal.

"Through the LGA's long experience on the lake and its knowledge of lake ecology, we fully understand the ecological and economic threats posed by invasive species, and we support the proposed classification system as a way to improve the control of invasive species in New York State," said Walt Lender, LGA executive director.

“Invasive species have a devastating impact, not only on the environment but also the economy,” New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis said. “They have wiped out certain tree species, hurt recreational and commercial fishing, and tainted water supplies. The best way to prevent their spread is to focus on the many pathways by which plants and animals are moved around the globe.

The Council’s draft report is available online at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/63402.html>. The comment period runs through May 14, 2010. Comments can be sent via e-mail to invasivesreport@gw.dec.state.ny.us or by writing to NYSDEC - Office of Invasive Species Coordination, Fifth Floor, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233.

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