

THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COOPERATIVE

A State-Federal Organization for Fish and Wildlife Management of Species  
with Interstate Significance in Lake Champlain

## Background

The Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative was organized in 1972 by unanimous consent of the directors of the fish and wildlife agencies of Vermont and New York and the northeast regional office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It was formed in recognition of the need for a unified approach to the protection and management of the fish and wildlife resources of interstate significance in Lake Champlain. The States have primary responsibility for management of resident fish and wildlife. Where the U.S. Congress has charged the Secretary of the Interior with management of certain fish and wildlife resources, e.g., endangered and threatened species and migratory birds, State jurisdiction remains concurrent with Federal authority. The States also have primary responsibility for management of the interjurisdictional recreational fishery of Lake Champlain. Under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Recreational Fishing Policy, the Service is committed to work in partnership with the States to effectively manage recreational fisheries. The Service also supports the restoration and management of interjurisdictional fisheries in Lake Champlain, which, because of their geographic distribution and migratory patterns, fall under the jurisdiction of, and are managed by, Vermont, New York, and Quebec.

## Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative is to initiate, develop and provide direction to coordinated fish and wildlife programs. While not a signatory party, close communication and coordination will be maintained with the Province of Quebec. Specific objectives are to:

1. Coordinate evaluation of environmental impacts on fish and wildlife resources and formulate appropriate responses.
2. Develop a comprehensive fish and wildlife management plan for species of interstate significance.
3. Encourage implementation of the comprehensive plan by the agencies with primary responsibility.

## Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee

There shall be a Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee for Lake Champlain composed of the directors of the fish and wildlife agencies in Vermont and New York and the regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The purpose of this committee is to provide overall direction for matters related to fish and wildlife resources of interstate concern in Lake Champlain. In the performance of their duty this committee will:

1. Maintain an operational procedure that recognizes member agency responsibilities and prerogatives while fostering the development of mutual accord on matters under consideration.
2. Develop, adopt, coordinate policy for and direct interagency comprehensive fish and wildlife programs for Lake Champlain.
3. Appoint such subordinate committees as are necessary to meet needs and provide direction for their operation.
4. Review, evaluate and provide direction on projects as necessary.
5. Implement appropriate action to fund programs and projects.
6. Provide input into programs affecting fish and wildlife resources in Lake Champlain.

#### Fish and Wildlife Management Committees

There shall be Fish and Wildlife Management Committees responsible to the Fish and Wildlife Policy Committee. The Management Committees shall be composed of representatives of each of the member agencies of the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative. The Committees shall organize in the same manner as the Policy committee.

The Management Committees, under guidelines established by the Policy Committee, are responsible for (i) developing a sound management program for fish and wildlife resources of interstate significance; (ii) technical evaluation of environmental impacts affecting these resources; and (iii) designing, implementing and overseeing approved procedures and projects.

The Management Committees will:

1. Develop and maintain resource management plans.
2. Assess existing and potential environmental impacts upon fish and wildlife resources.  
The committees will:
  - a. Identify major existing and potential adverse impacts of lakewide significance.
  - b. Evaluate the current status and significance of these impacts.
3. Meet regularly to carry out their responsibilities.
4. Oversee Technical Committees, which will be assigned specific tasks, conduct investigations and provide recommendations on matters requiring special expertise.

5. Refer appropriate matters to the Policy Committee for approval and action and meet with this committee as necessary.
6. Develop Annual Work Plans which define cooperative program objectives, member agency tasks and costs.


Borrowing equipment

The following provisions allow for use of necessary equipment on an interagency basis for the betterment of the resources in the collective charge of the state and federal agencies of the Lake Champlain Fish and Wildlife Management Cooperative.

1. The time frame of usage is to be specified and agreeable to the agency of ownership.
2. The borrowing agency must accept responsibility for borrowed equipment and be accountable to the lending agency for the proper use and care of the equipment.
3. The lending agency waives responsibility for circumstances beyond their control due to placement of equipment in the service of another agency.
4. Damage to borrowed equipment shall be reported to the lending agency within a 24-hour period from the time the damage was incurred.
5. To the full extent allowed by law, each party hereto agrees to be responsible and to assume liability for its own wrongful or negligent acts or omissions, or those of its officers, agents or employees in performance of this agreement.

Signatures

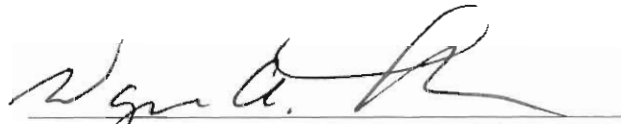
New York



---

Patricia Riexinger, Director  
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources


Vermont



---

Wayne A. Laroche, Commissioner  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



---

Marvin Moriarty,  
Regional Director

July, 2009