

Report on Fishermen Complaint and DEC Compliance Inspection

On August 9, 2018, three members of the CLIA Board (Lynn Wilbur, President; Frank Gabianelli, Chair for Harvesting; and Sheila Rappazzo, Chair for the Chemical program) met with representatives of DEC to look at each of the wetlands areas in the Lake and review the harvesting practices in those areas. The meeting was arranged to serve as a compliance inspection for the activities under the Wetlands permit issued by DEC. The compliance inspection was initiated by four complaints DEC received from fishermen regarding the "overharvesting" of aquatic vegetation on the lake this summer having a negative impact on the Lake's fishery. In order to accurately respond to the complaints received, DEC requested the meeting to inspect vegetation and review the harvesting practices in the wetlands areas of the Lake.

We inspected the majority of regulated freshwater wetland areas around the lake and discussed the ongoing weed harvesting activities at each area. DEC Staff and CLIA Board members agreed that we can work together to provide additional information and assemble some maps which will help both parties document compliance with the current permit conditions. The Wetlands permit restricts a combination of herbicide treatment, mechanical harvesting, and hydroraking, to an area of no more than fifty percent of any state-regulated wetland area.

We discussed one way of helping ensure compliance with this condition of the permit is to start recording the locations in which harvesting activities are taking place. DEC staff mentioned that they would help provide the CLIA members with higher quality maps of the regulated wetlands on the lake and provide an acreage total calculation for each mapped wetland that fell below the mean high water elevation.

Based on the observations of the compliance inspection, DEC concluded that the CLIA has been in compliance with the current permit. DEC and CLIA will work in a joint effort to assemble additional information this coming fall and winter seasons to have a more quantitative approach to documenting the compliance of weed harvesting activities in the coming years.