



For Immediate Release
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Contacts:
Steve LaPan, NYSDEC: 315-654-2147
Marc Gaden, GLFC: 734-669-3012

MEDIA ADVISORY

NEW YORK'S ORWELL BROOK SEA LAMPREY BARRIER TO BE DEDICATED DURING RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

The Great Lakes Fishery Commission and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will host a dedication ceremony for the Orwell Brook Sea Lamprey Barrier in Oswego County, New York. The ceremony is scheduled for 10:00 am (Eastern time) on June 4th, 2013. On hand to mark this occasion will be Patricia Riexinger, Director of the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Dale Burkett, Sea Lamprey Program Director for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; Jessica Barber, Sea Lamprey Control Program Barrier and Trapping Team Leader of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Paul Sullivan, Division Manager of the Sea Lamprey Control Centre, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and citizen Charles Blaas, Advisor to New York and to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Attendees should congregate for a reception at the Salmon River Fish Hatchery, and weather permitting, will be escorted to the barrier for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the completion and successful operation of the barrier.

Lampricides, pesticides specific to lamprey, are the primary tool to control sea lampreys in the Great Lakes. However, other tools like sea lamprey barriers are critical as well. Sea lampreys need access to spawning habitat; barriers prevent access. Once a barrier is installed in a stream, lampricide treatments are needed only infrequently upstream of the barrier.

Installation of the barrier will eliminate annual lampricide treatments that have been conducted on the brook since 2007, thereby saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in treatment costs. Orwell and Pekin brooks, tributaries to Lake Ontario's Salmon River, produce tens of thousands of sea lamprey larvae annually that contribute to the Lake Ontario sea lamprey population and to the destruction that sea lampreys bring to the fishery. A single adult lamprey can kill up to 40 pounds of fish in one year.

Sea lamprey control is essential to the Great Lakes fishery and contributes to a healthy environment, robust economy, and more than \$7 billion in economic return annually to the people of Canada and the United States. The first recorded observation of the invasive, noxious sea lamprey in Lake Ontario was in 1830. By the late 1930s sea lamprey were in all five of the Great Lakes and had decimated the once thriving fisheries, causing the region's economy and hundreds of thousands of people that relied on the fishery for jobs to suffer tremendously. Established by the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries of 1954, a treaty between Canada and the United States, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission is charged with delivering the sea lamprey control program in partnership with other agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and

GREAT LAKES FISHERY COMMISSION

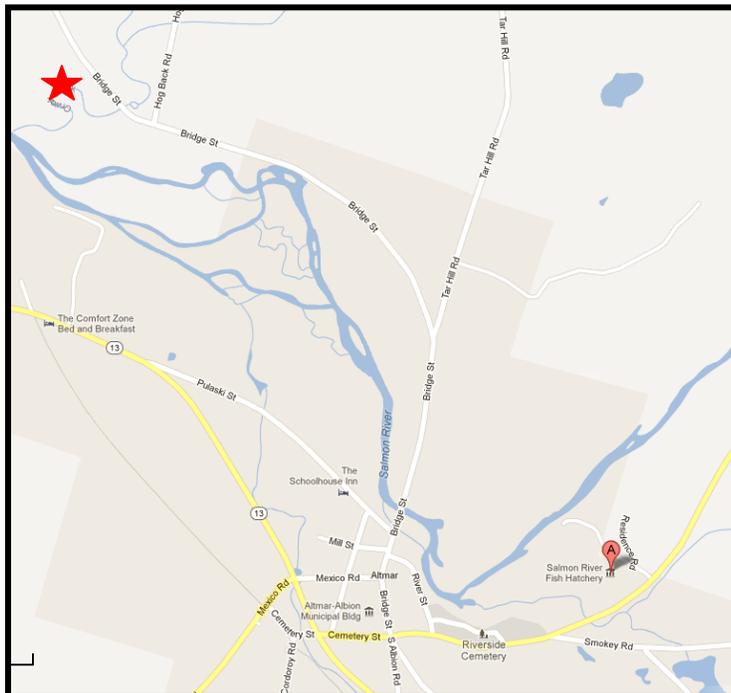
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Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Fishery agencies, like the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, depend on the sea lamprey control program to support activities such as fish stocking, habitat recovery, and species restoration.

The new barrier at Orwell Brook is an adjustable crest, low-head barrier fitted with aluminum stop logs that can be removed outside the period of the sea lamprey migration to facilitate passage of other migratory fish species. During the sea lamprey migration in spring, the stop logs will be employed to prevent sea lamprey from reaching prime spawning habitat in Orwell and Pekin Brooks upstream of the barrier. The vertical drop of the barrier is sufficient to block adult sea lampreys, while permitting passage of jumping species, such as steelhead and Atlantic salmon. Migrating sea lampreys are captured in a built-in trap, which will be monitored and operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and will be used to provide data for estimating the sea lamprey population in Lake Ontario.



Construction of the Orwell Brook Sea Lamprey Barrier and trap was completed through a successful collaboration among the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This is the first purpose-built sea lamprey barrier to be constructed in the State of New York. It was designed by Miller Engineers of Syracuse, New York, and was constructed by Procon Contracting of Vestal, New York.



Orwell Brook Barrier Dedication

Date: June 4, 2013

Time: 10:00 am Eastern

Location: Point "A" on the map indicates the Salmon River Fish Hatchery (2133 County Route 22, Altmar). Attendees can congregate at the hatchery and then, weather permitting, drive to the barrier (see star on map; directions will be provided) for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. A reception will follow at the hatchery.