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*Agency of Natural Resources*

## MEMORANDUM

To: Kari Dolan, Ecosystem Restoration Program Manager

From: Eric Palmer, Fish Division Director

Date: February 13, 2014

RE: Lake Champlain TMDL

We have discussed the Lake Champlain TMDLs on several occasions with you and other DEC staff, including the development of the Preferred Alternatives to achieve reductions in non-point sources of phosphorous.

The Department would like to reiterate that we see tremendous benefits in having the State's Lake Champlain Phase 1 plan include actions that promote the use of naturally vegetated buffers along streams, rivers and manmade water-courses to improve fish habitat, enhance the integrity of stream banks, reduce erosion, filter and absorb nutrients in run-off, provide habitat and movement corridors for reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and terrestrial wildlife species, and provide a whole host of other environmental, social and economic benefits.

Buffers with natural vegetation, including woody species such as trees and shrubs, can also be effective at improving streambank integrity and addressing the more powerful storms and increased stream flows that are predicted to occur as a result of climate change.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Cc: Kim Royar

