

ANC 101: Tools in the Toolbox

A brief overview of Vermont's Aquatic Nuisance Control Program

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection Section oversees an array of activities and control methods pertaining to the management of aquatic nuisances and invasive species as well as the discharge of pesticides into waters of the state. These permit programs are administered by the Aquatic Nuisance Control Program. A brief summary of each is provided below.

[10 V.S.A. Chapter 50 §1455](#) – Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC): no one can use pesticides, chemicals other than pesticides, biological controls, bottom barriers, structural barriers, structural controls, or powered mechanical devices to control nuisance aquatic plants, insects, or other aquatic nuisances (including sea lamprey) unless ANC permit coverage have been obtained. To learn more about the ANC Program and how to apply for a permit visit the [ANC webpage](#) or check out our [ANC permit application filing directions](#).

[10 V.S.A. Chapter 50 §1454](#) – Transport of Aquatic Nuisance Species: no person can transport an aquatic nuisance species (ANS) to or from any Vermont waters without either obtaining (1) a permit authorizing aquatic nuisance control activity per §1455, or (2) a letter granting an exception to allow the transport of an ANS, which must accompany the specimens during transport.

Pursuant to Vermont's federally delegated National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program via the Clean Water Act, the [Pesticide General Permit](#) (PGP) provides coverage for discharges from the application of pesticides to waters of the state for the following pesticide use patterns: (1) mosquito and other flying insect pest control; (2) weed and algae control; (3) animal pest control; and (4) forest canopy pest control. An interactive [Decision Making Tool](#) is available to assist prospective permit applicants in determining what type of coverage is required, if any, and outlines the applicable provisions within the PGP.

[10 V.S.A. Chapter 50 §1456](#) – Rapid Response General Permit ([RRGP](#)): authorizes the Agency of Natural Resources to issue a general permit in order to rapidly respond to and control the invasion of a new nonindigenous species. To this end, Vermont's RRGF was developed through which control techniques are identified in advance, including biological and pesticide control methods, in order to be deployed immediately upon the detection of a new invasive species. By statute, applications for coverage under the RRGF are limited to only the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Coverage under the RRGF is not available to any other public or private entity. A workgroup has been established in order to identify potential threats and appropriate control methods for each species.

The [Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules](#) govern the aquatic resources management of public waters via a number is general management rules to protect normal uses on all lakes, ponds and reservoirs. Specifically, section 4.1 of this rule grants ANR the authority to temporarily close (no more than 90 days) access (by persons or vessels) to public waters in order to prevent, control or contain the spread of an ANS infestation. This rule outlines the process by which ANR can execute this authority.

For more information, please visit the [LPMP Section's webpage](#).