

An AIS Incident and Follow-up Activities at Sunrise-Sunset Lake-Perch Pond

On July 26, 2017 Jamie Longtin, president of the Sunrise Sunset Lake Perch Pond Association wrote to Fish & Wildlife Warden Rob Sterling:

The waiver fines have been set by the VT Judicial Bureau as of today for the Aquatic Plant Transport Violation we had previously discussed. Accordingly, please proceed with a ticket for the violation previously identified that occurred on July 4, 2017, on Sunset Lake. As you know there have been several other violations that have gone unaddressed in the past due to the lack of available enforcement officers to respond at the time as well as the lack of Waiver Fines. We were advised that pictures, details and witnesses were sufficient to ticket violators. We have that information, witness, and evidence to support our complaint. I can have the Zebra Mussel and Milfoil positively identified by DEC Staff if needed.

I have cc Col. Batchelder as well as Lake Association Directors and Commissioner Porter. The Lake Association is **VERY MOTIVATED** for action on this violation. We deserve no less given the extensive damage that even a single small plant or other aquatic invasive can do to a Public Trust waterbody.

Jamie Longtin, President

Rob Sterling responded within one hour as follows:

Due to the amount of milfoil in this incident my Officer discretion is to stay with the warning I issued to the subject previously. The subject has been spoken too (sic) and educated on the necessity to properly inspect his vessel.

No complaint will be issued by this Warden for this violation.

K9 SPL. Robert Sterling 942

K9 Crockett

VT State Game Warden

On July 28, Jamie Longtin wrote the following:

SSL-PPA will gladly accept any help in getting enforcement on this violation. This is outrageous that the game warden refuses to ticket this violator. Interestingly his enthusiasm to ticket when we spoke on the phone changed to a decision to warn AFTER I sent him the owner's registration info. They are locals...

A photo of the milfoil clump found on a boat trailer is below.

President, Jamie Longtin, filed the following report with Rob Sterling of Fish and Wildlife:

On the evening of August 1, 2017, at approximately 6:00 pm, a boater launched into Sunset Lake with Milfoil on his boat trailer. The owner's vehicle Registration is VT TRK 289A711 (Black Ford F-150) Trailer Registration B74650. The reporting person did not have a camera but supplied the information to me and removed the plant. It was described as an 18" long single plant. I don't know if it was a viable plant, and lacking any photo's (sic) we are requesting you reach out to this boater and issue a warning about doing a thorough inspection before leaving a launch or launching into another lake. Also, this boater was tubing on Sunset Lake after 6:00 PM which is in violation of the VT Water Resource Rules regulating the use of Sunset Lake.

The Lake Association BOD is taking a ZERO TOLERANCE stance on the transport of invasive species into Sunset, Sunrise Lakes or Perch Pond. Your help is appreciated in issuing an educational warning.

On the morning of August 2, Rob Sterling stated it would be investigated.

Jamie Longtin filed a complaint with the DEC Enforcement Division along with the waiver fines set by the VT Judicial Bureau. The incident number is 17EC00645. No closure or response to date. All members of the Association's Board of Directors have been following this case and will watch for results.

