



China Region Lakes Alliance

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A Lake is the Product of its Watershed...And the People who Care for it

January 19, 2015

Ms. Mary S. Sabins
PO Box 129
N. Vassalboro, ME 04962
Re: Town Report

Dear Ms. Sabins:

This letter contains the *China Region Lakes Alliance's* Annual Report, which summarizes the conservation and water quality protection activities undertaken in 2014. The CRLA has been working steadily to protect our valuable Lakes and waterways in Vassalboro, China, and the surrounding communities since 1995.

Among the highlights of 2014 was the veritable absence of an algae bloom in Webber Pond and a continuing water quality improvement trend in Three Mile Pond. This remarkable achievement is absolutely splendid news and coincides unequivocally with the restoration of the sea-run alewife fishery in these lakes. As you know, CRLA was instrumental in their restoration to Three Mile Pond. Now, CRLA is spearheading these restoration activity to China Lake so that our community and posterity can enjoy clean water and a cold water fishery.

The mechanism by which alewife improve water quality is related to their metabolic uptake of nutrients whereby billions of juvenile alewife consume food (i.e. carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus) and essential export it upon their egress from the lake. This removes phosphorus from the water column, which deprives plankton and algae of these same nutrients; hence eutrophication is precluded and the lake it cleaner.

Going forward, CRLA has a comprehensive plan to restore sea run fish passageway along the eight mile stretch of the Outlet Stream into China Lake. All of the six dam owners on the Outlet Stream have shown support and cooperation for fish passage and CRLA is engaging engineering firms to develop plans that are agreeable to each of them. It will take time and substantial funding to reach our goal of 'unfettered fish passage into China Lake by December 31, 2014'. In the meantime, the Maine Department of Marine Resources stocked 21,000 adult alewife into China Lake in the Spring of 2014.

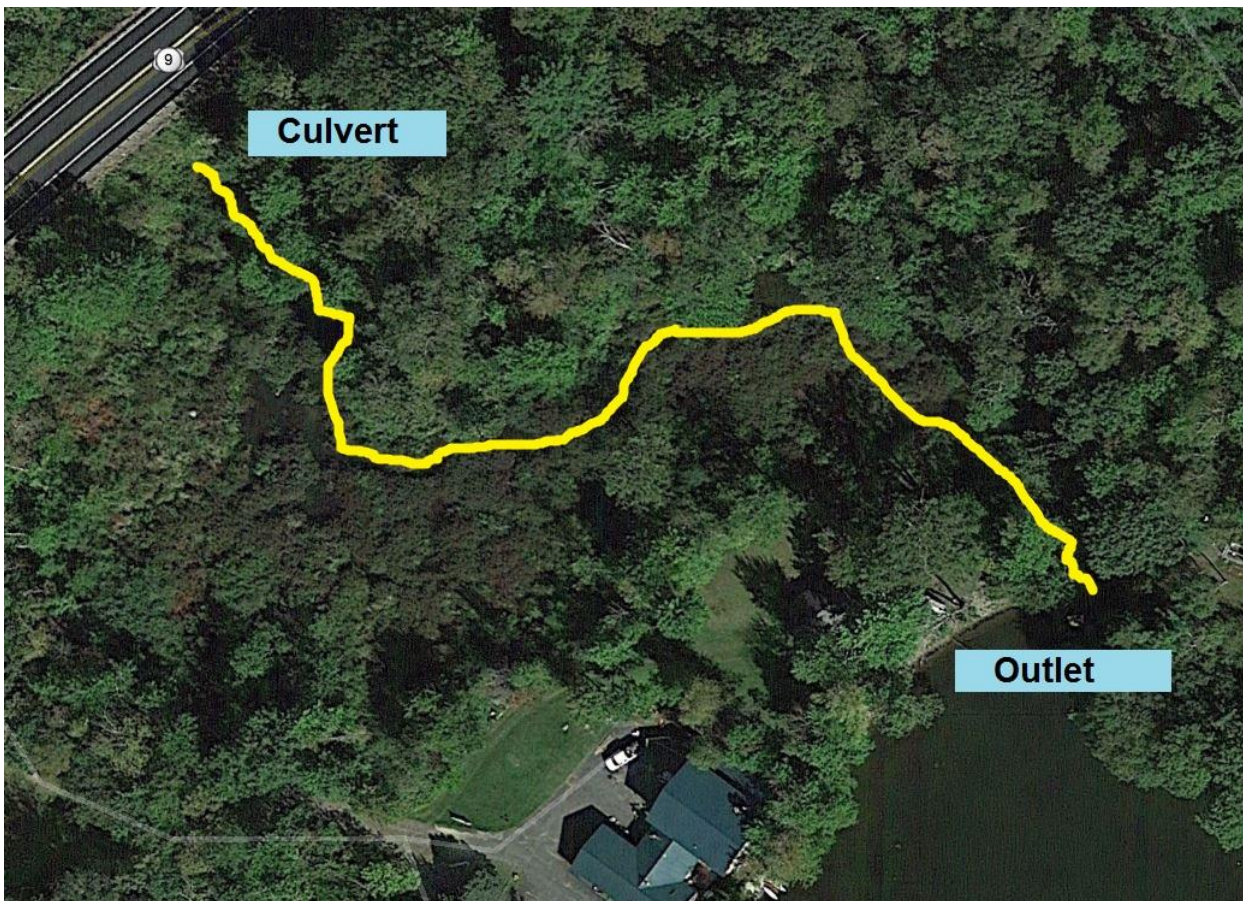
In addition, CRLA managed the *Courtesy Boat Inspection* program and the *Youth Conservation Corp.* They each experienced another very good season with 18 area high school age students providing services for ecological protection of natural resources. The CBI staffed all 4 public boat launches in the area and inspected hundreds of boats and trailers for invasive plants (i.e. milfoil) on weekends and holidays prior to their launching. A series of photographs of the projects are appended. CRLA wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to the Town of Vassalboro for its foresight, fortitude, and support.

Jim Hart, CRLA President

Our Mission: To protect and improve the water quality in China Lake, Three Cornered Pond, Three Mile Pond and Webber Pond, and to benefit our local economy through Integrated Watershed Management.

Members: China Lake Association, Three Cornered Pond, Three Mile Pond Association, Webber Pond Association, Town of China, Town of Vassalboro, Town of Windsor, Kennebec Water District

Figure 1 –Three Mile Pond - Overview of Seaward Mills Stream outlet at Route 3 and lake. In stream clearing work to removal invasive dogwood trees in the stream to help restore anadromous fish passage.



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Figure 2 - CRLA YCC crew packing up the truck at the Box Mill dam site on the Outlet Stream.



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Figure 3 - Before brush clearing at the Box Mill dam site on the Outlet Stream by YCC (see background on opposite side of stream).



Figure 4 - After brush clearing at the Box Mill dam site on the Outlet Stream by YCC (see background on opposite side of stream). CRLA YCC devoted 110 man-hours onsite in preparation for nature like fishway.



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