

PUBLIC NOTICE

In Reply Refer to: Keith Hannon
Email: CTRiver-Hydrilla@usace.army.mil

Office: USACE New England District
Navigation, Coastal & Environmental Planning Section
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PUBLIC NOTICE USACE CONNECTICUT RIVER HYDRILLA RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECT WATER EXCHANGE DYNAMICS STUDY

Interested parties, stakeholders, and abutters are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District, in partnership with the Lower Connecticut (CT) River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) & the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), is conducting a research and demonstration project to better understand and control the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla (*hydrilla verticillata*) that is currently spreading throughout the lower CT River and its tributaries. To control and eradicate hydrilla, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New England District and the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) plan to treat a subset of the seven identified sites during summer 2024 (Figure 1). Ahead of this work, USACE and ERDC will be applying Rhodamine WT (RWT) tracer dye to four sites to better understand their water exchange dynamics thus informing the development of individual herbicide treatment plans for control of the hydrilla at each site.

RWT dye is a fluorescent, xanthene dye that has been used for water tracing since at least the mid-20th century to quantify time of travel in dynamic waters. This dye has no significant effects on aquatic organisms and has been proven to be safe to use for these studies with ERDC previously using this dye method to understand the water dynamics for other projects. Dye will be applied to the sites during various environmental conditions using different application techniques at 10 parts per billion concentrations. The concentrations of the dye in the water will be collected using fluorometry equipment at certain intervals following initial dye treatment at sampling points within and just outside of the sites. There will be impacts to the color of the water at the sites and surrounding areas as the dye is bright red in color, but these are expected to be minimal and short term as the dye will dilute and dissipate with the flow and tides of the river.

The proposed RWT dye study sites are provided in the table below:

Table 1. RWT Dye Study Locations

Primary Site Locations	Town	Alternate Site Locations	Town
Keeney Cove	Glastonbury, CT	Deep River	Deep River, CT
Chapman Pond	East Haddam, CT	Mattabesset River	Middletown, CT
Chester Boat Basin	Chester, CT	Portland Boat Works	Portland, CT
Selden Cove	Lyme, CT	-	-

The dye will be applied to the waters of these sites starting Aug 7, 2023, through September 15, 2023, with an alternate end date of September 22, 2023. Work will be occurring Monday-Friday. The schedule is subject to change and will be updated and posted to the USACE project website:

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Connecticut-River-Hydrilla/>.

Check the website to view any changes to the schedule.

Table 2. Dye study schedule

Site Location	Schedule				
Keeney Cove	Mon Aug 7	Tues Aug 8	Wed Aug 9	Thur Aug 10	Fri Aug 11
	Prep day	Treatment day	Sample day	Sample day	Sample day
Chapman Pond & Chester Boat Basin	Mon Aug 14	Tues Aug 15	Wed Aug 16	Thur Aug 17	Fri Aug 18
	Prep day	Treatment day	Sample day	Sample day	Sample day
Alternate Site if Needed	Mon Aug 21	Tues Aug 22	Wed Aug 23	Thur Aug 24	Fri Aug 25
	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Selden Cove	Mon Aug 28	Tues Aug 29	Wed Aug 30	Thur Aug 31	Fri Sep 1
	Prep day	Treatment day	Sample day	Sample day	Sample day
Keeney Cove	Mon Sept 4	Tues Sept 5	Wed Sept 6	Thur Sept 7	Fri Sept 8
	Prep day	Treatment day	Sample day	Sample day	Sample day
Chapman Pond & Chester Boat Basin	Mon Sept 11	Tues Sept 12	Wed Sept 13	Thur Sept 14	Fri Sept 15
	Prep day	Treatment day	Sample day	Sample day	Sample day
Alternate Site if Needed	Mon Sept 18	Tues Sept 19	Wed Sept 20	Thur Sept 21	Fri Sept 22
	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

