



Great Waters and Lake Champlain

Forty of the leading water quality groups around the nation joined together to create America's Great Waters Coalition, forming the group in December 2009. Friends of Northern Lake Champlain, the Business Alliance for a Clean Lake and the Lake Champlain Committee joined the coalition and requested that Lake Champlain be included as one of America's Great Waters. This designation occurred on Jan. 29, 2010.

Lake Champlain is now included as one of America's Great Waters (!!!).

Link here to information about America's Great Waters, on the website of the National Wildlife Federation: http://online.nwf.org/site/PageServer?pagename=GreatWaters_MainPage

As a part of this Great Waters effort, we are working more specifically on a Northeast Great Waters federal appropriations request for \$70 million that will fund the implementation of ecosystem/habitat restoration and conservation plans for the four Great Waters of the northeastern US-- Lake Champlain, the Gulf of Maine, Narragansett Bay and Long Island Sound.

We are looking for consistent programmatic funding for the region's four Great Waters ecosystems that will enable sustained action in water quality improvement. These Great Waters ecosystems provide food, recreation, transportation, tourism, and other vital economic benefits, and are home to tens of millions of Americans. The federal funds will create jobs and boost the economies of the northeastern states

To further this appropriations request, the Great Waters coalition is working to get letters of support from state governors and joint resolutions from state legislatures. Friends of Northern Lake Champlain and the Lake Champlain Committee are leading the work on this in Vermont, and the process is moving smoothly through the Governor's Office and the Legislature.

In due course those working on this Northeast Great Waters proposal will be coming to the Congressional delegations looking for support for the funding. This is a long-term process that promises to provide the sustained federal funding that will be necessary to clean up Lake Champlain.

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