May 10, 2017

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
Office of the Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Gene Chandler
Speaker of the House
PO Box 296
Bartlett, NH 03812-0296

The Honorable Chuck W. Morse
Senate President
18 Brookhollow Drive
Salem, NH 03079

The Honorable Kevin Avard, Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 105-A
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Chris Christensen, Chairman
House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee
27 Greatstone Drive
Merrimack, NH 03054-2342

The Honorable James Webb, Chairman
House Fish and Game Committee
6 Independence Avenue
Derry, NH 03038-4364
Pursuant to RSA 233-A:2, IV, I am pleased to present the Public Water Access Advisory Board’s ("PWAAB" or "Board") 2016 Annual Report. The PWAAB is made up of two members representing the general public and representatives of constituent groups from the following interests: motorized and non-motorized boating, hunting, fishing, rivers, lakes and coastal interests. In addition, it includes representatives from the State agencies that have public water regulation and access responsibilities. It also includes two state senators and two representatives from their bodies' relevant committees.

The general charge of the PWAAB is to advise, coordinate, monitor, review and recommend as to state agency public water access efforts, including Fish and Game’s statewide public boat access program. It also recommends to Fish and Game priorities for the siting and development of public boat access. See RSA 233-A:2, II.

The Fish and Game Department has a duty to "establish priorities for the siting and development of public boat access areas, based on the demands and needs for different types of public boat access areas and public water bodies . . .". RSA 233-A:4, I.

This report is organized starting with this general report of the PWAAB, followed by separate individual reports by the member state agencies of the Board as follows:

Office of Energy and Planning – Ken Gallager

Department of Environmental Services – Jim Gallagher

Fish & Game Department – Garret Graaskamp

Department of Resources and Economic Development – B. Gegas
Department of Safety, Marine Patrol – Capt. Timothy Dunleavey

Department of Transportation – Rebecca Martin

Governor's Commission on Disability

RSA 233-A:2, IV requires that the PWAAB's Annual Report, "shall include a list of existing public access points, and a target date for publication of all access points". That information is found in a number of different sources and media. The most comprehensive source is available on-line through the GRANIT Conservation Lands Viewer at: https://granitview.unh.edu/html5viewer/index.html?viewer=granit_view/ (Once on this webpage click on the "View Layers" tab at the top of the page and then open [expand] and check the "Label Features" layer box. Within the Label Features layer progressively open and check the boxes for the following nested databases: Label Recreation and Label Access Sites to Public Waters. The names of the access sites will appear near the access locations). That information is a product of an ongoing effort by the Office of Energy and Planning since the early 1990s to inventory all available public access to the State's public waters, whether publicly or privately owned, whether they are free or charge a fee, etc.

The Fish & Game Department has published a “New Hampshire Boating & Fishing Public Access Map” since 1999. That map contains a list of and directions to most publicly owned and operated access sites to the State's public waters. It has been widely distributed throughout the state including the state highway information centers, state agencies and Fish and Game license agents. The current edition was published in late 2009. The most up to date version is available electronically on the Google Earth map platform at: http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/boatfish/index.html. In addition, all of the
more than 130 access sites to public waters managed by the Fish & Game Department, as well as many managed by other agencies, are described in detail at that Department’s website: http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/access/access-sites.html. Bathymetry (depth) maps of over 400 lakes and ponds, with some showing access sites and information are also found at the Fish and Game website: http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/maps/bathymetry.html. Efforts to update these lists are ongoing.

The DES Coastal Program has also developed a map of public water access facilities in the 17 communities that make up the coastal zone. Their “New Hampshire Coastal Access Map” is available to the public in either hard copy or on the Coastal Program’s website: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/documents/coastal_access_map.pdf.

Information on DRED’s State Parks, including their public water access opportunities, is available on a mobile app. Information on how to download that app is available on DRED’s website. Fish and Game also has a mobile app for their resources. It can be downloaded at the following site: http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/about/app.html.

Much of the Board’s work with regard to advising, monitoring and coordinating state agency public water access efforts, is detailed in the attached reports of the above State agencies. In that regard, the Board and these agencies have been particularly focused on inventorying and prioritizing access on the State’s major lakes and rivers, including all those in the State’s Rivers Management and Protection Program.
At the request of the Office of Energy and Planning, the Board has continued its review and updating of the State’s 1991 Public Water Access Plan, focusing on the criteria for the number and types of boat access sites and beaches on lakes and rivers. Since surveys have shown that the public is most interested in access to the State’s largest lakes and rivers, the Board has conducted an individual review of existing general public access at the State’s 35 largest lakes (500 acres or more in size), looking at the adequacy of boating access and swimming access separately for each such water body. Maps of the access sites on each of these lakes are available at:

http://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/services/gis/public-access/index.htm. In 2013, the Board also began a process to review of the adequacy of river access, identifying 23 major rivers to review. The Board worked with the Local Advisory Committees for those rivers in the Rivers Management and Protection Program to identify existing access sites and determine river stretches where access is inadequate. The Board also worked with OEP to develop customized maps showing existing access sites, dams and other pertinent information.

The Board generally meets every other month, except for the summer. Its minutes, prior annual reports and other general information can be accessed from the Fish and Game Department website (http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/access/pwaab.html). The Board’s annual field trip in September 2016 visited 11 sites in the southwest part of the State, including Road to Public Waters sites (the program that preceded Fish and Game’s adoption of the statewide public boat access program in 1993), which were in various states of usability. The Board recommended that the RTPW site on Contoocook Lake be taken over by the Fish and Game Department if the Town of Rindge does not fulfill its responsibilities under the RTPW program to refurbish and maintain that site.
In addition, in 2016 the Board monitored legislation that concerned or affected public water access. It has also monitored state surplus land disposals, where it has an advisory role to the Department of Transportation and the Council on Resources and Development with regard to the sale or lease of state lands that do, or could, provide public access to the State’s waters.

Thank you for this opportunity for providing information about our Board and its work. If you have any questions or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact me at (603) 695-8641, tquarles@devinemillimet.com or our Board’s secretary, Tanya Haskell at (603) 271-3511, tanya.haskell@wildlife.nh.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Thomas Quarles, Jr., Chair
Public Water Access Board

cc: All Board members (by email)
The role of the Office of Energy and Planning as a member of the Public Water Access Advisory Board (PWAAB) is: 1) to assist in providing information and planning guidance regarding the development of access to New Hampshire’s water bodies, and 2) to provide an up-to-date inventory of the water access sites in New Hampshire.

The Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) provides technical and information support, with an emphasis on providing mapping services using the available Geographic Information System (GIS) information. This information is readily available and can be used by state agencies and the general public to view, create, and disseminate information about public access sites, among other attributes. GRANITYView, the most comprehensive public interface for the state’s geographic information system, is the main conduit for making this information available to the public. Additionally, OEP staff has assisted with research and site visits to verify access conditions and information.

The River Map Inventory review process for 27 identified rivers, that will complement the Large Lake Map Inventory, continued through 2016. OEP updated maps for the Ammonoosuc, Androscoggin, Ashuelot, Cochecho, Connecticut, Contoocook, Isinglass, Lamprey, Mascoma, Merrimack, Piscataqua, Piscataquog, Saco, Salmon Falls, Souhegan, Squamscott, Sugar, and Swift rivers, taking into account input from PWAAB, from local river committees, and from OEP site visits. These maps are available to the public, and allow PWAAB to further evaluate public access issues, concerns, and adequacy relative to this public resource.

Through the course of the year, OEP provided support for the start of a PWAAB analysis of the state’s beach access sites, and worked with other PWAAB members to respond to requests from the public with regard to the status of individual water access sites. As the year drew to a close, OEP assisted with the compilation of information regarding access sites that were part of the state’s Roads to Public Waters program.

PWAAB actively participates in the state’s surplus land review process by making recommendations to the Council on Resources and Development (CORD), which is chaired by OEP’s director. This process ensures PWAAB is able to review surplus land
properties and offer comments and recommendations on properties that provide the opportunity to acquire and or enhance public access sites.

Ken Gallagher, principal planner and geographic information system specialist, has represented OEP on the board since September 2015 and continues to provide key GIS mapping and technical support.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth R. Gallagher
Principal Planner
During 2016, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) engaged in numerous programs and activities associated with recreational opportunities and public access to the state’s waters; these items are described below. NHDES continues to be active in its efforts to expand and improve public access opportunities across New Hampshire.

**DES Bureaus and Programs that Support Public Access**

**Dam Bureau**
The NHDES Dam Bureau owns and operates 111 dams, and also operates and maintains 100 dams belonging to the NH Fish and Game Department (NHF&G). NHDES provides boating recreational opportunities by regulating the water level of these dam-controlled waterbodies. Many of these dam sites have public access facilities, which require constant maintenance, repairs and enhancements. As part of the operation plans for each of the dams, the opportunity to improve public access is fully evaluated.

**Maintain and Monitor Existing Lease Agreements**
The Bureau owns lake and riverfront parcels on waterbodies across the state, and it leases many of these properties and facilities to several communities and other agencies across the state. NHDES works cooperatively with towns and agencies to provide public access opportunities at these locations: Bow Lake, Strafford; Lovell Lake, Wakefield; Goshen Lake, Goshen; Oliverian Brook Flood Control Impoundment, Benton; Deering Reservoir, Deering; Milton Three Ponds, Milton; and the Waumbek and Rowe sites on the Salmon Falls River, Milton.

**Site Enhancement Projects for Dams and Other Properties**
Due to budget reductions, NHDES did not receive funding for the Site Enhancement program.

**Major Repairs to Existing Dams and Impoundment Structures**

**Seaver Reservoir – Harrisville:** This major reconstruction project was completed in March 2016, and the lake refilled in the spring of 2016. The work included construction of new outlet works and earth embankment and rehabilitation of the remote spillway to pass the design flood. A car top boat access site, consisting of a gravel ramp with roadside parking, was also improved as part of the project.

**Mendum’s Pond Dam – Nottingham:** Work continued on the repairs needed to reduce the seepage and internal erosion that was occurring at this dam. The lake was drained beginning after Labor Day 2015, and subsurface investigations were conducted to obtain the data needed to construct a seepage cutoff wall. Work continued through the year, and was phased so that refilling of the reservoir was able to begin in November 2016, with the goal of restoring the lake for the 2017 recreation season. The University of New Hampshire maintains a public boat ramp that is opened during the boating season between the hours of 11:30 AM and 7:00 PM.

**Land Resource Management Programs**
The Wetlands Bureau and Shoreland Program continue to work with applicants to ensure that public services are provided whenever a marina is proposed for a lake, a river, or the seacoast. Private marinas may charge a launch fee that is unregulated by NHDES. The Programs are working with the NH Fish and Game (NHF&G) Public Access Program to develop maintenance plans, including schedules and protocols, for various public access sites owned by NHF&G across the State.
In 2016, the Wetlands Bureau issued 144 permits related to installation, repair, maintenance, and access to docks and boat slips. Fifty permits were issued for beach renourishment or creation of a perched beach. The bureau also issued four permits to install, repair, or maintain boat ramps/boat launches which provide access to NH's waters. Also, three projects provided or improved public access to waterbodies including installing a car top public access to the Androscoggin River in Errol; improving parking, vehicular access and constructing a permanent access ramp to the beach at Jenness State Beach in Rye; and installing a permanent pier and dock system to provide recreational water access to the Cochecho River.

Watershed Management Bureau
The Watershed Management Bureau uses a holistic and integrated approach to achieve clean water goals. Both regulatory and non-regulatory programs work together within the Bureau to integrate science, policy, planning and education to address water quality and quantity, nonpoint source pollution, stormwater, and exotic species. There are over 20 programs and activities within the Bureau several of which contribute to and support public access in New Hampshire.

Clean Vessel Act Program
The New Hampshire Clean Vessel Act (CVA) program is a result of a cooperative effort between the NHDES and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Federal Clean Vessel Act provides funds to states for the construction, renovation, and the operation and maintenance of pumpout/dump stations and mobile pumpout services. New Hampshire funding has been applied to the operation of a mobile pumpout service along the coast since 2002. A second mobile pumpout vessel was added in 2015 to service Hampton Harbor specifically. In addition to the mobile services, funding goes toward the repair or construction of new pumpout facilities. These grants have also been used to implement an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Funding program that has assisted marinas in general seasonal upkeep costs since 2006. Program participants ensure existing pumpout resources remain in proper working condition under O&M reimbursement.

These options are key factors in maintaining a No Discharge Area (NDA) for New Hampshire waters. Federal law prohibits the discharge of treated or untreated boat sewage in water that is designated a NDA. All waters within three miles of the New Hampshire shoreline and the Isles of Shoals are part of the coastal No Discharge Area. Tidal and estuarine waters, including all bays and rivers to the tidal dams, are incorporated in the NDA. New Hampshire also enforces a "No Discharge" law for inland waters in addition to the federal NDA law. Boats cannot contain devices that will allow for overboard discharge of treated/untreated boat sewage or graywater.

Coastal Waters – Two stationary pumpout locations and two mobile pumpout boats are currently available to the recreational boating public along New Hampshire’s coast. Both stationary facilities have taken part in CVA funds at one point either for initial installation or seasonal repairs. One of the three marina locations was awarded 2016 CVA operation and maintenance funding for their stationary pumpout units. Under this grant, Great Bay Marine in Newington continued routine operation and maintenance. One stationary facility that was out of order for the 2016 season has expressed an interest in replacing that stationary facility in the beginning of 2017. A grant to provide funds for this replacement is currently pending.

The mobile pumpout service receives CVA funding annually through a multi-year contract. Since 2002, approximately 157,000 gallons of sewage have been removed from recreational boats through the use of the mobile pumpout service. During 2016, a mobile pumpout vessel operated in Hampton Harbor from May through October. A state-owned mobile pumpout vessel operated in all other coastal waters from May through November. The two services documented 1,145 captain hours, more than 685
serviced boats and the disposal of an estimated 13,700 gallons of sewage. For a brief period, number of boats serviced and sewage gallons pumped was not tracked, which would cause these figures to be slightly lower than the actual figures. The popularity and effectiveness of the mobile resource has been evident in the consistency in boater user numbers and sewage pumped since program implementation. Seasonal activity within the recreational boating community varies from year to year depending on economic and weather conditions.

Inland Waters – New Hampshire has approximately 20 pump/dump facilities with 18 (14 of which are public access) devoted to Lake Winnipesaukee and one public facility on Lake Winnisquam. A public dump station is located within Sunapee Harbor on Lake Sunapee. Approximately 50% of the available pump/dump facilities have taken part in CVA funding at one point or another either for initial installation or seasonal repairs. Three marinas on Lake Winnipesaukee were awarded 2016 CVA operation and maintenance funding for their stationary pumpout units.

The CVA program anticipates funding construction, renovation, and maintenance of systems as necessary in 2017. The mobile pumpout service dedicated to Hampton Harbor is expected to continue in 2017. Education and outreach to marinas, pumpout/dump stations and the boater community in general will continue both for inland waterbodies and coastal waters.

Boat Inspection Program
Promotion of proper boating practices and enforcement of the No Discharge Area designation was continued in 2016 by conducting inspections of vessels with onboard marine sanitation devices (MSD) that operate on inland waters. No marine toilet, sink or shower on any boat operated upon fresh waters of the state shall be so constructed or operated as to discharge graywater or sewage (whether it’s treated or not) per RSA 487:2-3.

The 2016 season boat inspections were done on Lake Winnipesaukee on 4 separate events. Fewer inspections were done in both 2014 and 2015 due to unexpected health concerns for the boat inspector. At the request of the boat inspector, a replacement inspector was hired in 2016. The number of events and inspections were lower than previous years as the replacement inspector was hired at the end of July and thereby the time for inspections was shorter than it has been in past years. It is anticipated that in 2017 the inspections will occur roughly once a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Public Beach Inspection Program (PBIP)
PBIP personnel collect water from coastal and freshwater beaches to test for fecal bacteria to protect the public health of swimmers. During the summer swim season, NHDES personnel monitor about 170 freshwater public bathing beaches on a monthly basis and 16 coastal beaches on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. When bacteria counts at designated public beaches are higher than the state criteria, an advisory is issued to notify the public approximately 24 hours after sampling.

Coastal Beach Program
The Beach Program is a federally-funded program that provides resources for coastal beach research and monitoring. NHDES inspected 16 coastal public swimming beaches in 2016. During the swim season, Memorial Day through Labor Day, six beaches were inspected twice weekly, four were inspected weekly, and six beaches were sampled twice a month according to a tiered monitoring assessment. In 2015, the summer sampling frequency was reduced from weekly to twice a month at both Sawyer and Seabrook Town Beach because both had been removed from the 303(d) impaired list in the most recent NHDES report to EPA.

Staff members conducted 232 inspections and collected 899 samples for Enterococci analysis during the
swim season. No off-season sampling was conducted in 2016. During the swim season, only four Enterococci samples exceeded the state standard, resulting in two coastal advisories from one beach. The only beach to issue coastal advisories in 2016 was North Hampton State Beach for a total of three days for each advisory or six beach days overall. The 2016 swim season in New Hampshire was 104 days long, translating into 1,664 beach days collectively for all 16 beaches. With only six total advisory days during the entire summer at coastal beaches, the chance of a beach being under a swimming advisory was less than 0.36% in 2016.

All 16 coastal beaches are accessible to the general public. All five state beaches have parking fees as do the beaches in Hampton and Seabrook Harbor. New Castle town beach charges all visitors an entrance fee. The remaining coastal beaches have parking areas for residents near the beach, but public parking is available in most areas of the coast.

Freshwater Beach Program
In 2016, freshwater beaches were inspected by the Public Bathing Beach Inspection Program from June 13 to August 25. The goal of the freshwater beach program is to inspect each beach in the program three times between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Beach Program inspects about 170 freshwater-town, state, federal and private association beaches, plus nearly 30 New Hampshire beaches are sampled by other agencies and municipalities. During 2016, 527 beach inspections were conducted by NHDES and 115 were inspected by others for a total of 642 beach inspections in 2016. A total of 1,865 E. coli samples were analyzed by the state laboratory, including field duplicates and additional samples collected by towns and federal agencies that sample water at New Hampshire beaches. In 2016, 215 E. coli samples exceeded the state standards, resulting in the issuance of 79 freshwater beach advisories, an increase of 13 advisories from the summer of 2015, which had the highest number of bacteria advisories issued in during the summer season. Bacterial-based advisories were issued at 48 beaches in 2016.

Since 2008, NHDES has issued cyanobacteria lake warnings if a bloom occurs at a beach, far away from a beach or on a lake without a public beach. Beach advisories were issued for cyanobacteria at seven different beaches that routinely monitor and an additional two beaches had also confirmed blooms with NHDES. In 2016, cyanobacteria warnings were issued for Elm Brook Pond, Hopkinton where two advisories were issued for two weeks at a time for each warning. Cyanobacteria warnings were also issued at French Pond, Henniker; Norway Pond, Hancock; Darrah Pond, Litchfield; Milton Three Ponds, Milton; Otter Brook Lake, Keene and Silver Lake, Hollis. Cyanobacteria blooms were also confirmed at Greenwood Pond of Kingston and Sunrise Lake of Middleton. There were 11 cyanobacteria warnings recorded by NHDES in 2016. The greatest number of warnings was issued in 2008 and 2009 with about 14 cyanobacteria advisories each summer. Since 2003, nearly 40 freshwater beaches have been reported (by NHDES) to have had a cyanobacteria bloom event occurring at least once in a summer.

Not all freshwater beaches sampled by the NHDES program are accessible to the general public. Of the nearly 170 town and private beaches that are sampled by NHDES staff, 102 limit entry to residents and guests only. Seven of the beaches charge entry fees to everyone and seven are for campers only. Only 36 of 170 private and town beaches sampled by NHDES allow unrestricted access to the swimming areas. Another 21 state beaches have a daily fee.

Exotic Species Program
The exotic aquatic species program inspected 86 waterbodies in 2016 (several of them multiple times) for exotic plant species infestations. It anticipates conducting at least the same number lake inspections in 2017 for waterbodies with a high potential for exotic species infestations. The total number of
management actions for exotic plant control in 2015 included hand pulling was used 18 times, suction harvest was used 35 times, and herbicide 2, 4-D was used 26 times.

The Exotic Species Program tracked 85 infested waterbodies in 2016, with 105 total infestations. There was one new infestations of variable milfoil discovered in 2016 (variable milfoil in Crooked Pond in Loudon). Most infestations of invasive aquatic plants in New Hampshire are variable milfoil. No zebra mussels have yet been reported in New Hampshire, but the Asian Clam has been documented in the Merrimack River, Long Pond in Pelham, Cobbetts Pond in Windham and Wash Pond in Sandown.

Milfoil Control Funds
NHDES provided milfoil grants (at the 40% match level) to 42 organizations to control the growth of exotic aquatic plants in 2016. Control projects included a mix of diver hand removal, diver-assisted suction harvesting and herbicide treatment. Some benthic barrier placement was also conducted.

Milfoil and Other Exotic Plants Prevention and Research Fund
No research grants were awarded in 2016 due to lack of formal submission of proposals.

Public Education and Outreach
NHDES distributed numerous boat launch signs and educational pamphlets throughout the state, including a new publication promoting a message of Clean, Drain and Dry. There are more than 500 volunteer Weed Watchers across the state working in cooperation with NHDES on more than 300 waterbodies.

Management of Exotic Species
Control activities funded with grants included a mix of non-chemical and chemical controls. Additionally, NHDES staff performed numerous diver and diver assisted suction harvesting activities on various waterbodies across the state.

Mercury in Fish Program
The NHDES Jody Conner Limnology Center (JCLC) organizes a fish tissue analysis program for both state and national fish tissue studies. Fish tissue is processed and analyzed for mercury content by the JCLC. In 2016, 64 fish (including 12 fish from the February 2017 sampling event) were analyzed as part of NHDES long term mercury in fish tissue monitoring program. As part of this program up to two lakes, from a repetitive ten lake rotation, are sampled annually with the hope of tracking mercury in fish tissue trends over time. In addition, fish are submitted by the general public for analysis from around the state.

JCLC plays a critical role in the state’s mercury in fish tissue study program. NHDES is responsible for organizing the collection of fish specimens for state and national fish tissue studies. All data collected in this program is used to support both state-wide advisories as well as individual lake advisories for human fish consumption. Fish are collected by VLAP volunteers using traditional fishing methods, by NHDES and New Hampshire Fish and Game staff using fish electroshock boats during the summer months, and at ice fishing tournaments during the winter. The number of fish collected and processed by JCLC over the past several years has ranged from a high of 341 in 2015 to a low of 42 in 2010. The number of fish processed in 2016 was 189.

The data are used to conduct risk assessments for mercury exposure for the game fish-consuming public. This risk assessment results in statewide and, if appropriate, waterbody-specific fish consumption advisories for various species of fish. The data are also used to track trends over time in the mercury content in fish tissue. A summary report was initiated in 2015 and will be finalized in 2017. The report includes data from 1992 through 2016. For the most current information regarding the
consumption of freshwater fish, please visit the NHDES Health Risk Assessment webpage at: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/pehb/ehs/hrap/index.htm

**Biomonitoring Program**

In 2016, the biomonitoring program assisted other WMB staff in completing water quality monitoring at 40 trend monitoring sites and 22 synoptic monitoring sites between June and August. At 38 of these locations (28 trend, 10 synoptic), biomonitoring staff were responsible for coordinating the collection of macroinvertebrate data. With assistance from WMB staff, Rock Baskets were deployed and collected. Collection of fish data occurred at 23 of locations (11 trend, 15 synoptic, 7 special project).

For the third consecutive year, NHDES and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department worked cooperatively to complete fish surveys at several trend sites. The biomonitoring program also assisted NH F&G with American Eel and Eastern Brook Trout Surveys.

In addition to trend and synoptic monitoring, the biomonitoring program completed 11 probability-based stream surveys in 2016. Between 2014 and 2016, New Hampshire crews of four to eight people completed all 34 stream assessment surveys; collecting water quality, habitat, gradient, flow and biological parameters. This data, along with data from the National Rivers and Streams Assessment in 2013 and 2014, will be used to complete a probability-based assessment of the state’s wadeable rivers and streams.

Biomonitoring program efforts included in this report summarize the collection chemistry, macroinvertebrate, fish and habitat data satisfying trend, synoptic and probability-based monitoring efforts. In 2016, biological monitoring included 145 macroinvertebrate samples (51 sample sites) and 40 fish samples, resulting in the generation of more than 39,000 combined data points. The number of macroinvertebrate data records is an estimate based on the average number of macroinvertebrates per sample collected from 2000-2013. Actual data will be available in mid-2017. Additional water chemistry, habitat, sediment, flow and stream gradient data were also collected and totaled more than 5,000 additional data points.

Fish identification data quality control measures relied on having an expert fish taxonomist on site during sampling. Any unknown species were documented with photos or retained for laboratory analysis and further consultation with other state agencies and partners. Several samples were preserved for laboratory identification in 2016, including a young of year Fallfish and Creek Chubsucker.

All field data are reviewed for quality assurance and entered into the biomonitoring program’s Ecological Data Application System (EDAS) database. Additional data checks for completeness and accuracy are performed prior to uploading data to the NHDES Environmental Monitoring Database and later to the Environmental Protection Agency’s Water Quality Exchange Database.

**Lake Assessment and Probabilistic-Based Sampling**

Over the past several years, New Hampshire has participated in the EPA’s National Lake Assessment (NLA) surveys, sampling 50 randomly-selected NH lakes between 2007 and 2009. In 2012, 11 additional lakes were assessed for the NLA. No lakes were sampled in 2016 for NLA. The next NLA sampling is planned for 2017.

**Surface Water Quality Assessments**

The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to develop and adopt surface water quality standards that include designated uses for all surface waters, criteria to support the designated uses and an antidegradation policy. Designated uses are human uses of surface waters that are considered desirable
and should be protected. Every two years NHDES must submit to EPA for approval a list of all impaired waters for which a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study is needed, commonly called the 303(d) List. EPA approved the 2012 303(d) on September 24, 2015. The most recent submitted 303(d) List was for the 2014 assessment cycle with the final released March 27, 2017. EPA has not yet approved the 2014 303(d) List.

Water Quality Monitoring of Rivers
Since site-specific water quality assessments tend to focus on rivers and streams with known problems, the results of the assessments are not indicative of water quality statewide with respect to designated uses, including “primary contact recreation” (i.e. swimming), “secondary contact recreation” (i.e. boating and fishing) and “aquatic life.” To create a broader picture of water quality in the state’s rivers for those designated uses, NHDES also conducted a probabilistic assessment of wadeable (fourth order and smaller) streams which was used for the 2012 water quality assessment report. In other words, streams were randomly sampled to make inferences about the water quality of all New Hampshire’s streams. The assessment found that for “aquatic life” support, there was insufficient data for 47.8 percent of the streams, 37.9 percent supported the aquatic life standard, and 14.3 percent did not. For “primary contact recreation,” (i.e. swimming) the percentages were 10.7 percent insufficient data, 83.2 percent supporting, and 6.1 percent not supporting.

Water Quality Monitoring of Lakes
The probabilistic sampling of New Hampshire lakes was completed in 2009 and the evaluation of that data in terms of supporting designated uses was used for the 2012 water quality assessment report. Fifty lakes out of a sample set of 1,004 lakes greater than ten acres were sampled. The results showed that over 95% of the lakes supported the “primary contact recreation” (i.e. swimming) use. All lakes supported the swimming use based on bacteria; the non-support lakes were due to elevated chlorophyll (planktonic algae) levels or the presence of a cyanobacteria scum. All lakes fully supported the secondary contact (i.e. boating) use. Less than 4% of the lakes fully supported the “aquatic life” use. Lakes did not support “aquatic life” use for a variety of reasons, and a given lake could be impaired for multiple reasons. Low pH values were the main cause for non-support (84%), followed by nutrients as represented by chlorophyll and total phosphorus (56%). Many of the lakes sampled had public access facilities.

Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP)
During 2016, 457 individual sampling events were conducted at a total of 176 lakes and ponds by 500 volunteers and VLAP biologists, including 184 deep spot stations and approximately 500 river/stream stations which feed these lakes. VLAP generated 14,172 total sample results requiring approximately 3,700 hours of sampling time. By sampling a lake several times each year over a period of years, long-term water quality trends can be discerned. The sampling efforts of the volunteer monitors supplement the significantly reduced sampling and assessment efforts of NHDES, saving the state personnel and travel costs estimated at $87,000 during 2016. Only through the help of volunteer monitors can such a volume of sampling be accomplished throughout the state, providing data on the cleanliness of New Hampshire’s lakes for swimmers and boaters.

Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP)
During 2016, the VRAP supported 33 volunteer groups who monitored water quality at 302 river and stream stations throughout the state. VRAP volunteers collected 6,228 field and laboratory parameters taking approximately 1,500 hours of volunteer time. The majority of these data will be used for the 2016 305(b)/303(d) water quality report. For many of the VRAP rivers and tributaries, the volunteers provide NHDES with its only source of water quality data. As with the VLP, the VRAP volunteers provide the agency with high quality data while saving the state significant expense, estimated at a value of
approximately $30,000 in 2016.

Rivers and Lakes Management and Protection Programs
In 2016, the Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager provided the PWAAB with information specific to proposed waterfront state surplus land disposals, worked with the NHDES Dam Bureau and other state agencies to report on the status of state access sites, and worked with the Wetlands Bureau on permitting of access sites.

As part of its review of public access sites along rivers in New Hampshire, the PWAAB reached out to the 21 Local River Management Advisory Committees entrusted with the oversight of the 18 rivers designated under the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. In 2016, these local committees reviewed maps of known river access sites provided by the PWAAB, and responded not only with information about the condition of known sites, but also with recommendations for additional sites that should be added to the map. Many of these sites were informal fishing and canoe launch sites used by local residents to access their river.

During 2016, the New Hampshire Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) reviewed three proposed state surplus land disposals along rivers to ensure that public access to the rivers was maintained or improved. One of these disposals was for the sale of nine acres of state property between the Warner River and I-89 to the Town of Warner for incorporation of the property into the town’s proposed rail trail along the Warner River. The RMAC supported the sale for the purpose of improving access to the river, but added conditions designed to protect turtles inhabiting the property. The RMAC also supported a property exchange of 0.1 acres between the Bradford Pines Natural Area and an abutter in which the state gained land along the Warner River in Bradford. Finally, the RMAC did not object to a utility easement to install a water line along the North Stafford-Beecher Falls Rail Trail in Canaan, VT, as the impact to the trail along the Connecticut River would be temporary. However, the committee did add provisions to maintain access to the trail and require the use of appropriate construction best management practices to protect water quality in the Connecticut River.

No disposals of state owned land adjacent to lakes were proposed in 2016. Therefore, the New Hampshire Lakes Management Advisory Committee did not comment on any property disposals in order to retain or improve public access to New Hampshire’s lakes.

New Hampshire Coastal Program
Beach Cleanups
In 2016, the NHDES Coastal Program supported the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation’s beach cleanup programs, including the Adopt-a-Beach Program, the annual NH Coastal Clean Up and opportunistic cleanups conducted with local businesses, schools and project partners. With Coastal Program grant funds, the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation achieved the following:

- During the Adopt-a-Beach Program: Project staff and volunteers conducted 148 beach cleanups in New Hampshire. This involved 2,116 volunteers who removed 4,745 pounds of litter from New Hampshire Beaches. In total, adult volunteers dedicated more than 2,103 volunteer hours in cleaning beaches, plus an additional 1,257 hours in travel time. There were an additional 519 hours dedicated by volunteers under the age of 18. Over 42,000 pieces of litter were recorded.

- During the 2016 New Hampshire Coastal Cleanup, 965 volunteers cleaned 11 miles of coastline and removed 4,948 pounds of litter, which was a great increase over last year, likely due to three large cleanups held in the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. A total of
47,231 pieces of litter were recorded. Five New Hampshire beach sites were sampled for microplastics. Plastic fragments and foams were the predominant form of microplastic pollution encountered. Sixty four percent of the samples contained foams and 12% contained fragments.
The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department’s “Statewide Public Boat Access Program” focus is to provide fair, adequate and reasonable public access to the State's waters. Funding for the program primarily comes from two sources: 1) A five-dollar surcharge placed on New Hampshire boat registrations; where this five–dollar surcharge and any other public access funds donated to the State are placed in a non-lapsing, continually appropriated, statewide public boat access fund; and, 2) the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program, which collects excise taxes placed on sport fishing equipment, trolling motors, flashers, motorboat fuels, and import duties on tackle, pleasure boats and yachts. When a state accepts Federal Sport Fish Restoration Funds, it must use at least 15 percent of these monies for motorized boating access projects. Federal boating access funds may be spent on the acquisition of land to develop new access facilities, or to renovate and improve existing facilities. Renovations and improvements may include items such as launching ramps, docks, fueling stations, buoys, retaining walls, parking lots, utilities and restrooms. Projects that help expedite access to open water may also be funded, including; channel improvements, vegetation clearance and the installation of navigational aids.

The Department uses the aforementioned funds to carry out the provisions of the Statewide Public Boat Access Program established under RSA 233-A. This statute directs the Department to acquire lands, construct, refurbish, maintain, operate, enforce and inspect new and existing public boat access facilities. During calendar year 2016, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department continued its work to expand and improve public access to State
LAND LEASE PROGRAM

This program is designed to provide Department assistance to landowners who enter into a lease agreement with the Department and agree that the facility will remain open for public use for the life of the capital improvements. In return, the Department agrees to design, construct, operate, maintain, manage, inspect and/or enforce regulations pertaining to these public water access sites, or any combination of the aforementioned services. Access facilities that qualify for the program will be under control of the Department and will be operated as a Department facility for the life of the capital improvements.

The primary benefit of this program is that the public will enjoy increased boating and fishing opportunities, while the Department reduces its cost by not having to purchase land. The money that is saved can then be used towards additional construction projects and maintenance of existing facilities. Conversely, a participating town receives the benefit from a new access site, or an existing site repaired, with funds through the Statewide Public Boat Access Program.

Two towns are currently participating in the lease program. The Department is leasing the boat access facility on the Connecticut River in the town of Orford and the Webster Lake boat access facility in the City of Franklin. The City of Nashua approached the Department about a joint venture to refurbish the boat ramp at Greeley Park on the Merrimack River. The Department declined the opportunity because of budgetary commitments to existing major projects and the need for the City to proceed directly in 2017. The City will use a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to support the project and ensure that the access is open to the general public.

ICE DAMAGE REMEDIATION

In 2016, the Department continued to monitor the problems of winter ice-damage to Fish and Game boat ramps. Since New Hampshire waters are subject to a freeze up each winter, some ponds and lakes are susceptible to boat ramp damage caused by the horizontal and vertical forces exerted from these ice loads. The damage is mostly confined to the concrete planks ("logs") used in the boat ramp design, and can be so severe that it renders a ramp inoperable the following spring. This damage requires the Department to prematurely
replace these ramps. At this point all ramps with the newer design have held up well to forces of ice movement.

Ice-related ramp damage (lateral movement and buckling) at the Department’s Hot Hole Pond facility was repaired in 2015 using the new Type-B precast concrete plank, concrete anchor block and placement layout. This ramp held up well during the 2016-2017 winter season.

Winter ice damaged the pile system for the seasonal dock at the Department’s Newfound Lake access facility. A new pile system was installed in 2016, whereby the piles can be removed each season along with the seasonal dock. Permanent large diameter “sleeve” piles were installed such that the pile tops are below the long-term mean elevation of the bottom of the winter ice sheet. Slightly smaller diameter steel “extension” pipes are fitted into the sleeve piles using a crane to form the visible, above water piles that the seasonal docks are tied to. This arrangement also allows the ramp area to remain frozen and accessible for public ice fishing and snowmachine use.

**POWER LOADING**

The Department is constructing longer and deeper ramps, where allowed under the wetlands rules, to deter the damage caused by loading and unloading boats from a trailer while under power, commonly referred to as “power loading”. In recent years power loading related damage has been repaired at Lake Winnipesaukee (interim ramp extension 2016, Downing’s Landing, Alton), Baxter Lake (2013, Rochester), Beaver Lake (2012, Derry) and Umbagog Lake (2010, Cambridge). These sites will be monitored to evaluate the success of the repairs. To this point the ramps have held up well. In the meantime, the Department will continue its ongoing education program to alert the public to the damage caused by loading a boat onto a trailer under power. Press releases, as well as signage at boat ramps are part of a program that alerts the public to the problem and asks for their cooperation.
LAKE HOST PROGRAM

Beginning in the summer of 2001, the Department has collaborated with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the New Hampshire Lakes Association with a “Lake Host Program”. A total of 23 NH Fish and Game Department facilities were enrolled in the program in 2016 (Table 1), up from 19 in 2015.

Table 1: 2016 Lake Host Program Monitoring at NHFG Department Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Lake Host Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Androscoggin River</td>
<td>Errol</td>
<td>Town of Errol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Lake</td>
<td>Derry</td>
<td>Beaver Lake Improvement Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clough Pond</td>
<td>Loudon</td>
<td>Clough Pond Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Lake</td>
<td>Enfield</td>
<td>Crystal Lake Improvement Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastman Lake</td>
<td>Grantham</td>
<td>Eastman Community Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gorham Pond</td>
<td>Dunbarton</td>
<td>Town of Dunbarton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jenness Pond</td>
<td>Northwood</td>
<td>Jenness Pond Shoreowners Assn., Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Potanipo</td>
<td>Brookline</td>
<td>Town of Brookline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tarleton</td>
<td>Piermont</td>
<td>Lake Tarleton Assn., Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Umbagog</td>
<td>Cambridge</td>
<td>Town of Errol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Warren</td>
<td>Alstead</td>
<td>Lake Warren Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Winnisquam</td>
<td>Laconia</td>
<td>Lake Winnisquam Watershed Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake</td>
<td>New Durham</td>
<td>Merrymeeting Lake Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newfound Lake</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>Newfound Lake Region Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pawtuckaway Lake</td>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasant Lake</td>
<td>Deerfield/Northwood</td>
<td>Pleasant Lake Assn. of Deerfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powwow Pond</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
<td>Powwow Pond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand Pond</td>
<td>Lempster/Marlow</td>
<td>Sand Pond Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squam Lake</td>
<td>Holderness</td>
<td>Squam Lakes Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stinson Lake</td>
<td>Rumney</td>
<td>Stinson Lake Assn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swain’s Lake</td>
<td>Barrington</td>
<td>Swains Lake Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turee Pond</td>
<td>Bow</td>
<td>Town of Bow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster Lake</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>Webster Lake Assn.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The intent of the program is to educate boaters about exotic invasive aquatic plants and their accidental introductions into State waters by boaters. There is always the potential for invasive aquatic plant fragments to travel from lake to lake by being attached to fishing equipment, boat trailers, boats and their motors. Lake Hosts educate boaters and anglers on the proper way to inspect their equipment where plant fragments tend to collect. In addition, anglers and boaters are taught how to properly dispose of invasive plant fragments so that
accidental introductions can be prevented. The Lake Host Volunteer Program reaches thousands of boaters and anglers and will continue through the 2017 boating season.

**LAND ACQUISITION**

Each year, the Department receives offers and suggestions to purchase lands fronting public waters, as well as requests to address ownership issues associated with existing State-owned properties. In addition, the Department reviews State surplus land proposals, ensuring that State lands that harbor water access potential are not disposed of by the State. The parcels that have satisfactory conditions to capably provide public water access are transferred to the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and are assimilated into the program for public use.

Each land offer requires staff to devote time to assess their access potential. Those properties that can provide opportunities to enhance water access, while meeting the legal, environmental, engineering and regulatory standards, are purchased for subsequent public access activities. In 2016, five property issues were addressed (Table 2).
### Table 2: 2016 Land Acquisition Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>City/Town</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elbow Pond- Andover</td>
<td>8 acres +/-;</td>
<td><strong>Project Status</strong></td>
<td>2015 August- Inquiry by current owner (Jim Emerson) of NHFG’s interest to acquire his property for water access facility. 2015 September- Site visit made with Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. NHFG’s Land’s Team preliminarily supports contributing funds to purchase easement or fee ownership. ASLPT is taking the lead in finding more donors. 2016- ASLPT continues to pursue donors to move this project forward.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success Pond- Success Trailered</td>
<td>Trailered ramp</td>
<td>2016- The Conservation Fund organization (TCF) has not completed its work to secure the overall conservation project that includes this ramp property. This must be done before NHFG can purchase and take control of the ramp area from TCF.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashuelot River- Off Route 10, 6.5 miles south of Rte. 101 intersection in Keene</td>
<td>Winchester Cartop</td>
<td>NHDOT completed construction of this bridge project in 2016. NHFG took over basic maintenance (mowing, trash pick-up and parking lot grading) of the carry-down (cartop) access adjacent to the bridge from DOT per a MOU. NHDOT retains ownership and responsibility for maintaining the stormwater infrastructure on the site that services the local area and Route 10 ROW.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrimack River- (Memorial Park- Access from Front and Bridge Streets)</td>
<td>Suncook Cartop</td>
<td>October 2016: FG Commissioner Greco contacted NHFG. Town is interested in upgrading existing Memorial Park ramp at confluence of Merrimack and Suncook rivers. Commissioner Greco inquired what steps would be necessary to upgrade and whether NHFG was interested in participating. PWAAB visited site in fall 2015. Water level at ramp is shallow and subject to sedimentation. NHFG can send ramp template info if needed, but no funds available at this time to enter into lease agreement or purchase the property.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Town</td>
<td>Type of Access</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrimack River-(Ferry Street)</td>
<td>Allenstown</td>
<td>Trailered ramp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2013- Title research/lease agreement reviewed. Letter from town’s attorney pending. Town selectmen and sewer commission have not agreed who controls the property. Town is again interested in proceeding. They met with sewer commission and will work together. Town is investigating alternative location. FG to meet with Town mid Sept. Waiting for response from Town on how they will obtain land from abutter. Nov 2014- Town has not contacted FG about this opportunity since 2013. 2015 September- Site visited by PWAAB. No movement by Town to improve site.

2016-August- Call from Allenstown Road Agent (R. Pelissier) about NHFG’s current interest in rehabilitating this ramp. NHFG will not have funds for several years due to existing commitments to major Access Projects (Lake Sunapee and Lake Winnipesaukee). 2016-November- Pelissier reports Sewer Commission is in support of ramp and Select Board and Town Administrator are in the public charrette phase of a recreation plan study for the river front including an option for the ramp.
PROGRAMMATIC, LEGAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY ISSUES

Programmatic, legal, environmental and regulatory issues involve securing all necessary permits; evaluating potential sites for hazardous wastes; investigating sites for potential historic resources; wetlands delineation; site design; legal package preparation; threatened and endangered species reviews for plants and animals; National Environmental Policy Act compliance and preparing funding grant applications. This work must be completed before the Department can purchase property for subsequent access development, or to improve an existing Department-owned site. The tasks associated with this work exemplify the Department’s pro-active approach in addressing State and Federal requirements. This saves time and monies by addressing any issues that may create costly delays, or in the worst case, stop a proposed action from occurring. One construction project permitted in previous years and not constructed in 2016 due to shifting priorities and funding allocations involved the cartop facility at Eagle Pond in Wilmot. During the past year, programmatic activities were conducted at the following water bodies:

Table 3: 2016 Programmatic Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water Body</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Pond</td>
<td>Wilmot</td>
<td>To construct a cartop access site.</td>
<td>Five year extensions of the Wetlands and Shoreland permits were approved by NHDES thorough September 2021. Construction will commence when funds become available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Hole Pond</td>
<td>Concord</td>
<td>Refurbishment of boat ramp and fishing pier.</td>
<td>Permitting complete; The ramp was refurbished with larger Type B concrete planks in 2015. Five year extensions of the Wetlands and Shoreland permits were approved by NHDES thorough June and March 2021, respectively to allow time for refurbishment of the ADA Fishing Pier which was postponed because of a lack of funds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES**

Refurbishment began at the state-owned public boat access facility on the Pine River to improve public access to Ossipee Lake. The project will be completed in 2017. Improvements will include reconstruction of the gravel access road and enlarging the parking lot to provide 30 trailer-vehicle and 5 cartop spaces, including one trailered and one cartop space for recreationists with disabilities.

The existing single-lane ramp is being replaced with a double-lane ramp using the Department’s Type-B precast concrete-plank design with a removable floating dock system between the two ramps. A new timber-terraced gravel footpath leading to a non-motorized (cartop) boat access point will also be created. The addition of concrete-plank ramps will eliminate erosion of the current degraded bituminous ramp surface. This will improve the water quality at and around the launch area. In addition, the construction and delineation of designated parking spaces will create NH Fish and Game-controlled areas for vehicle and trailer parking and eliminate the need for the public to park in unauthorized areas.

To control stormwater runoff discharges to the Pine River and protect water quality, the parking area surface will be constructed with a pervious stone-filled grid to increase stormwater runoff infiltration. In addition, two bioretention stormwater treatment basins will be created to assist in collecting and infiltrating stormwater from the parking lot and driveways slowly into the ground.
MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING FACILITIES

Considering the useful life of a facility is directly correlated to its upkeep, a pro-active maintenance program is a necessity. The Department currently performs maintenance at 143 access facilities. Maintenance activities are divided into two categories: Type I – Construction Crew Maintenance Activities; and Type II - General Maintenance Crew Activities. Construction Crew Maintenance Activities are those jobs that require the use of heavy equipment, whereas, General Maintenance Crew Activities are jobs of a lighter nature, and are usually done on a routine basis. Regularly scheduled operation and maintenance activities ensure safe, functional, attractive, and user-friendly public access sites. In addition, pro-active maintenance initiatives prevent little problems from becoming bigger problems that require costly repairs. As new access sites are constructed, the costs of operation and maintenance of these sites continues to increase.

Type I Activities – 2016

Grading work by Department forces was only needed at the Saltmarsh Pond ramp in Gilford this year. Seasonal flood-related silt was removed under the auspices of a wetlands permit from the NH Department of Environmental Services from the Ashley Ferry ramp in Claremont, NH.

Type II Activities – 2016

Keeping abreast of minor maintenance issues is important. All sites required mowing, brush removal and/or trimming to some degree. As in past years, seasonal employees collected several hundred 30-gallon bags of refuse from Department access sites. Trash is still an issue that is addressed each and every operating season. Installing informational signage at access facilities is effective informing visitors of our “carry-in/out” policy and does reduce the volume of litter.

As an experiment to incorporate volunteer support at our boat ramps, the Department entered into a Special Use Permit agreement (SUP) with a local anglers club. Under the SUP the club built and maintained a trash receptacle and a used-fishing line and lead-sinker disposal station on a volunteer basis during the 2016 summer period. The effort targeted our heavily used trailered boat access to Lake Winnisquam in the City Laconia. Despite the diligent and good intentions of the club, the placing of two trash barrels served to attract a wider diversity of trash including household refuse from off-site. In addition, the amount of trash left
at the site increased significantly over historical levels related to the carry-in/out policy. The effort did not serve to reduce trash levels, the tidiness of the site or the level of Department effort required to maintain the facility. For those reasons the agreement was not renewed for the 2017 season. The effort also indicated that the carry-in/out policy is likely the most cost effective way to manage trash at boat access locations that do not have full-time on-site staff.

The entrance access sign for the Conner Pond cartop site in Ossipee NH was replaced after being damaged by a vehicle.

Nineteen sites were covered by contractor-maintained portable toilets. Each site received a handicap accessible and regular toilet unit. An additional regular toilet unit was added to the ramp facility to Lake Winnisquam in Laconia to address the above average effluent volumes generated at this popular double ramp. A total of thirty-nine rental toilets were deployed.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Many of the big lake boat launches see heavy activity during the boating season to the point of filling the parking areas to capacity with boaters waiting to launch. Such situations can result in confusion and tension while boaters wait to launch or retrieve their craft. For this reason, Fish and Game staffed five of our launches in 2016 with Conservation Officers to keep the peace and assist with traffic flow on weekends and holidays. Pleasant Lake in Deerfield, NH was added to the detail list this year. It had previously been covered in 2012, but was taken off the list in favor of a larger site (Winnipesaukee Lake, Alton) that was acquired as a public boat launch in November 2012. The intensity of use at the Pleasant Lake ramp required the reinstatement of a detail presence to manage the parking efficiently. Details begin on the Memorial Day weekend and run through the Labor Day weekend at the following sites:

- Newfound Lake, Bristol
- Pleasant Lake, Deerfield
- Squam Lake, Holderness
- Winnipesaukee Lake, Alton
- Winnisquam Lake, Laconia
Conservation Officers also respond to complaints regarding rule violations at any boat access facility during their regularly scheduled patrols.

Respectfully submitted,

Garret W. Graaskamp, P.G.
Coordinator, Statewide Public Boat Access Program
2016 REPORT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES

STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS PROGRAM
# 2016 Calendar Year Report of Revenue and Expenses

## NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

**Calendar Year Report of Revenue and Expenses**

**20-07500-21170000**

**Statewide Public Boat Access**

**01/01/2016-12/31/2016**

### REVENUE:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>000</td>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>383,252.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>009</td>
<td>Statewide Public Boat Access (Agency Income)</td>
<td>477,155.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL REVENUE:** $860,407.22

### EXPENSES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Encumbered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>010</td>
<td>PERSONAL SERVICES - PERMANENT</td>
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<td>018</td>
<td>OVERTIME</td>
<td>31,307.44</td>
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<td>020</td>
<td>CURRENT EXPENSES</td>
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<td>RENTS LEASES OTHER THAN STATE</td>
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<td>023</td>
<td>HEAT, ELECTRICITY AND WATER</td>
<td>2,377.25</td>
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<td>026</td>
<td>ORGANIZATIONAL DUES</td>
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<td>030</td>
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<td>039</td>
<td>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</td>
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<td>041</td>
<td>AUDIT FUND SET ASIDE</td>
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<td>CONSULTANTS</td>
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<td>OWN FORCES MAIN.-BUILD.&amp;GROUNDS</td>
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<td>048</td>
<td>CONTRACTUAL MAIN.-BUILD&amp;GROUNDS</td>
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<td>050</td>
<td>PERSONAL SERVICES - TEMPORARY</td>
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<td>060</td>
<td>BENEFITS</td>
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<td>070</td>
<td>IN STATE TRAVEL</td>
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<td>080</td>
<td>OUT OF STATE TRAVEL</td>
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<td>102</td>
<td>CONTRACTS FOR PROGRAM SERVICES</td>
<td>56,113.00</td>
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<td>217</td>
<td>INTERAGENCY PAYMENTS</td>
<td>48,895.00</td>
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<td>307</td>
<td>STATEWIDE PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS</td>
<td>147,406.25</td>
<td>902.00</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES:** $753,432.59 $18,094.92
2016 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
Pine River Access to Lake Ossipee (Ossipee, NH)
Ramp Refurbishment 2016
Pre-Construction (July 2015)
Pine River Access to Lake Ossipee (Ossipee, NH)
Ramp Refurbishment 2016
Pre-Construction (July 2015) – Continued
Pine River Access to Lake Ossipee (Ossipee, NH)
Ramp Refurbishment 2016
Pre-Construction (July 2015) – Continued
The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources’ Division of Forests and Lands, and Division of Parks and Recreation (DNCR) manages 219 State owned properties (including but not limited to state forests, parks, trails, natural areas, beaches, waysides, scenic areas, and historic sites) comprising 169,169 acres, 42 conservation easements comprising 244,823 acres, and 3 federal owned properties comprising 13,446 acres for a range of natural resource values including public recreation and forest management. Many of DNCR managed lands have water resources including developed beaches, boat launches, and shore access to the Atlantic Ocean and numerous lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. The DNCR also manages several federally funded grant programs that may be used to acquire and/or develop state, local or private lands for public water access purposes. The following is a report of activities relative to public water access within the 2016 calendar year.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Operations/Planning/Development
At Umbagog State Park (Errol/Cambridge) four remote cabins located on the western shore of Umbagog Lake, near the headwaters of the Androscoggin River and outlet of the Magalloway River, were acquired by DNCR and are now available to the public for overnight reservations. The cabins, known as the “Ellis Camps”, were previously held over under private leases established with the former underlying landowner prior to the State. As current landowner the State possesses first right of refusal to purchase lease camps once available. DNCR ultimately purchased the camps from private ownership for the purpose of placing them into the State Parks camping reservation system. User access to the Ellis Camps site is limited via waterfront only. See the attached map for location reference, and the following cabin descriptions. Dogs are not permitted.

- **Ellis Cabin** – Max 6 people, full size bunk bed, full size futon, rollaway bed, porch, solar power, heat, pots/pans, utensils, gas stovetop, fire pit, and picnic table. $80/night for 2 adults and up to 4 dependent children, $10 for each additional adult/night and $5 for each additional child/night.
- **Ben’s Cabin** – Max 4 people, full size futon, rollaway bed, porch, solar power, heat, pots/pans, utensils, gas stovetop, fire pit, and picnic table. $65/night for 2 adults and up to 2 dependent children, $10 for each additional adult/night and $5 for each additional child/night.
- **Jenny’s Cabin** – Max 4 people, full size futon, rollaway bed, porch, solar power, pots/pans, utensils, gas stovetop, fire pit, and picnic table. $65/night for 2 adults and up to 2 dependent children, $10 for each additional adult/night and $5 for each additional child/night.
- **Honeymoon Cabin** – Max of 4 people of which 3 can be adults, full size futon, rollaway bed, porch, solar power, pots/pans, utensils, gas stovetop, fire pit, and
picnic table. $65/night for 2 adults and up to 2 dependent children, $10 for each additional adult/night and $5 for each additional child/night.

At Moose Brook State Park (Gorham) a pedestrian bridge over Perkins Brook was rebuilt which provides access from the parking area to the swimming area.

At Forest Lake State Park (Dalton) a bridge was constructed over the brook adjacent to the swimming beach to create access to shore-bank fishing away from the beach area. The brook was formerly crossed by via culvert which had been removed by NHDOT due to constant plugging which caused flooding of the beach.

At Mollidgewock State Park (Errol) several waterfront campsites along the Androscoggin River were stabilized for improved camper use.

At Livermore Falls State Forest (Campton/Holderness) in a collaborative response to increased public use, but minimal management resources, a new parking lot and toll booth were constructed by the Division of Parks and Recreation to be managed as the Pemi River Recreational Access Area along the east side of the river in Holderness. Facility improvements at the beach area including a pit-toilet, pedestal grills, and picnic tables were also made.

At Kingston State Park (Kingston) work started to reopen the non-functioning bathhouse closest to the beach area.

At Pawtuckway State Park (Nottingham) a new shed for rental boats was installed.

At Clough State Park (Weare) two dilapidated bathhouses were razed, seasonal permitted swim lines were reestablished and installed. A section of chain-link fence at the southern end of the park was extended to prevent individuals from intentionally bypassing the main access tollbooth.

At Greenfield State Park (Greenfield) encroaching grass and saplings were removed from the sand at the campground beach.

At Silver Lake State Park (Hollis) the beach area was graded and encroaching grass and weeds were removed.

At Pisgah State Park (Winchester) repairs were made to Reservoir Road improving access to the dam area for approved trail uses and service vehicles (not public passenger vehicles).

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (Office of Community Recreation) LWCF is a matching grant program funded by the National Park
Service and managed in NH by DNCR. Local government entities are eligible for recreational land acquisition and/or development for public use.

- No new relevant projects to report

**Recreational Trails Program (Bureau of Trails)**
RTP is a matching grant program funded by the Federal Highway Administration.
- No new relevant projects to report.

**DIVISION OF FORESTS AND LANDS**

**Natural Heritage Bureau**
Ossipee Lake Natural Area (OLNA), Ossipee: In 2008, DNCR (then DRED) formed the OLNA Working Group which is comprised of local stakeholders from the boating and business communities, the three towns bordering the lake, the local watershed association, the NH lakes management advisory board, and state agency staff. The purpose of the working group is to make recommendations to the state about managing the OLNA and nearshore waters, to assist the state with implementation of the OLNA Management Plan (released 2009, revised 2010), and to facilitate continued communication among stakeholders. The Working Group meets semi-annually to discuss issues and advise the state regarding the natural resources, historical resources and public access of the OLNA.

Annual monitoring of plant populations and exemplary natural communities continues around established recreational use area. New plant inventory completed in August and September 2016. Preliminary results indicate that plant populations are sustaining with some demonstrating marked improvement. A new population of a rare plant called Hairy Hudsonia (Hudsonia tomentosa) was discovered in an area where there is no public access. In addition, a small population of the Small-flowered dwarf-bulrush (Lipocarpha micrantha) was discovered at OLNA, and it was last seen there in 1923. It is listed as critically imperiled in NH. Populations of the Coastal plain grass leaved goldenrod (Euthamia caroliniana) have stabilized so well that stem counts will now occur every 5 years instead of annually. A new focus on surveying historic OLNA rare plant population locations has been added.

No new access has been added, and no further restrictions have been implemented. The designated public use area remains as access by boat only.

**Forest Legacy Program**
The NH Forest Legacy Program, through Conservation Easements, protects and secures public pedestrian outdoor access and recreational rights. Outdoor recreation is defined as low-impact, non-commercial activities pursued during leisure time and by free choice that provide their own satisfaction and that make use of nature and the elements in nature including, but not limited to, hiking, nature study, bird
watching, walking, snow shoeing, camping, fishing, hunting and cross-country skiing; riding snowmobiles, mountain bicycles, and horses on designated trails, if any; and constructing and maintaining unpaved paths and trails.

Motorized recreational opportunities may be permitted upon written mutual agreement by the Fee Owner and Easement Holder. Specific snowmobiling rights are secured through a recorded Agreement.

The right to issue special use permits to enthusiasts for special recreational pursuits on the Easement area is allowed.

There were no new Forest legacy projects that affected public access to water in 2016

**Land Management Bureau**
In a land-swap with an abutting private landowner to Greenfield State Park, DNCR acquired 1.5 acres of property with 196 feet of shore frontage on Otter Lake. The parcel is directly contiguous to the northwestern edge of the public boat launch area of Greenfield State Park. The property will be maintained as a passive recreation, natural area, but provides opportunity for possible future expansion of the boat launch facilities.

**Forest Management Bureau**
The Central Region Office coordinated with the City of Laconia and Belknap County Conservation District for a clean-up day at Opeechee Bay State Forest (Laconia). These efforts including the removal of a large downed white pine tree that had reached 100 feet out into Lake Winnepesaukee, causing a navigational hazard to boaters.
ELLIS CAMPS (4) (See Legend)

- Honeymoon Cabin
- Jenny’s Cabin
- Ben’s Cabin
- Ellis Cabin

non-reservable sites: 36
State of New Hampshire
Inter-Department Communication

DATE August 10, 2017

FROM Captain Timothy C. Dunleavy AT (OFFICE) Marine Patrol HQ, Gilford

SUBJECT 2016 Annual Report

TO Colonel Christopher J. Wagner
Director, Division of State Police

Attention: Executive Major David Parenteau
Major Matthew S. Shapiro
Commander, Operations

Captain William R. Haynes
Field Area III Commander

Colonel Wagner,

Please find attached a copy of the Marine Patrol Bureau’s 2016 Annual Report. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. I would be happy to discuss any of the information contained in the report.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]
Timothy C. Dunleavy ID #003
Captain, Marine Patrol Bureau
The Division State Police’s Marine Patrol Bureau is the only boating law enforcement agency with jurisdiction on all of the State’s Great Ponds. This includes all bodies of water ten acres or more in size.

The Marine Patrol’s mission is to ensure that all who use our public waters may do so in a safe environment and that a reasonable balance is maintained among the many competing uses. The Marine Patrol endeavors to maintain the high standard of residential, recreational and scenic values that have made New Hampshire a popular recreation destination.

The eight full-time sworn officers of the Marine Patrol possess a wide range of experience and skills. Most have instructor level certifications in the use of force disciplines including defensive tactics and firearms, as well as specific boat related certifications. Specialties include Boating Accident Reconstruction/Advanced Crash Reconstruction, Tactical Boat Operation, Personal Watercraft Operation, Boating Safety Instructors, Seated Field Sobriety Testing, and Search and Rescue. Officers routinely assist and offer training at the PSTC Academy and at local police and fire departments.

Marine Patrol’s sworn personnel routinely patrol over 265 of the state’s 975 public bodies of water during the boating season. The Lake Winnipesaukee patrol, the largest covering 72 square miles, covers eight towns and two counties. The Atlantic Ocean patrol covers 158 miles of shoreline from Great Bay to Seabrook. In 2016, Marine Patrol employed 36 seasonal officers. The peak recreational boating season in New Hampshire typically runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with significant traffic on weekends from late April through late October.

The 2016 season saw a slight growth in boating activity with a coinciding increase in arrests, calls for service, and public relation events.

For the reporting year 2016, Seasonal Marine Patrol Officers generated the following activity:

- Responded to 2358 calls for service
- Issued 2434 warnings
- Issued 872 summonses
- Issued 148 defective equipment tags
- Made 25 arrests
- Assisted 181 boaters in distress
- Performed 52 water rescues
- Conducted 20 courtesy boat inspections
Investigated 78 accidents. 37 property damage accidents, 38 personal injury accidents and 9 fatalities.

- Responded to/Investigated 11 boat fires
- Investigated 14 Drownings (Not boat related)
- Investigated 58 reports of hazards to navigation

The Marine Patrol not only conducts waterborne law enforcement operations, it also serves as the primary responder to many inhabited islands for both law enforcement and medical emergency calls. All officers are certified in basic first aid and CPR, and are trained in the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AED’s). Officers responded to 27 medical aid calls and performed 21 welfare checks.

Marine Patrol Officers also responded to 17 trespassing complaints, 16 disturbances (domestic, etc.), 23 wildlife complaints, 11 reports of missing persons, recovered 88 missing/drift ing boats, and performed 36 outside agency assists.

In addition to the sworn personnel, Marine Patrol employs 10 full-time civilian employees and four seasonal counter clerks. These employees provide a tremendous amount of support to the sworn personnel, and are often the “face” of the bureau for those members of the boating public conducting business transactions. Civilians provide boating education opportunities, issue permits for moorings, swim lines, water events, and parasailing. They also provide commercial boat inspection and license opportunities. Both sworn and civilian personnel maintain all the navigation aids on our lakes, ponds, and rivers with floats and buoys assembled by the Maintenance Mechanics.

**Commercial Vessel Section**

Any vessel for hire, excursion vessels, and boats operated in association with schools or camps are required to be inspected annually for seaworthiness and proper safety equipment. In addition to thorough inspections, the boat can only be operated by a licensed commercial boat operator.

For the reporting year 2016, Marine Patrol Officers inspected 599 commercial boats and administered 528 Commercial Boat Operator Exams. Civilian staff scheduled all exams and inspections in addition to processing 747 new license and renewal license applications. Officers conducted 12 regional public inspection days and 28 public exam sessions at the request of the Commercial Boating Community.
State of New Hampshire

Inter-Department Communication

Water Event Permits Section

The permits section of the bureau issues permits for water events such as; fireworks displays over the water, races, triathlons, long distance swims, various fund raising events, and fishing tournaments. In addition, permits are issued for every swim line and water-ski slalom course placed on public waters.

For the 2016 season, Marine Patrol issued 456 water event permits, 79 swim line permits, and 38 slalom course permits, two ski jump permits and one parasail permit.

Navigation Maintenance Section

The Marine Patrol Navigation Mechanics currently maintain the Division’s fleet of approximately 80 boats. Mechanics are factory trained in the repair of both Mercury and Bombardier Marine Engines. These certifications allow the Bureau to maintain “Dealer Status” with these manufacturers giving the Marine Patrol warranty center benefits.

Marine Patrol boats range in length from 10 feet (Yamaha 4 stroke personal watercraft) to 40 feet (twin diesel jet drives on Winnipesaukee and the Atlantic Ocean). All routine maintenance and major repairs are completed in-house on these boats.

In addition to the boats and engines, approximately 75% of the bureau’s boats are routinely towed around the state on trailers. These trailers are also maintained and repaired on site in Gilford and Belmont. The mechanic section is also certified as a MV inspection station and performs routine maintenance and annual state inspections on the fleet of boats and boat trailers.

The Marine Patrol also maintains approximately 2135 navigation aids. This includes 1700 buoys, 310 floating regulatory buoys, and 130 floating light buoys. The Bureau purchases the raw materials for the buoys and the mechanics build them at a significant savings to the state.

Buoys are maintained by both officers and mechanics throughout the boating season. In addition to the installation and removal of navigational aids every spring and fall, personnel responded to replace and/or repair 221 aids in 2016.

Moorings Program

A mooring permit is required before placing a mooring on any of the seven lakes to which the law applies. Those lakes include; Winnipesaukee, Winnisquam, Sunapee, Newfound, Ossipee, Squam, and Bow.

The Program permitted 2580 moorings in 2016, issued 4819 mooring decals, and processed 161 new applications. In addition, they processed 656 boat registrations.
Boating Education Program

During the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, the Boating Education Program conducted 130 boating classes and 92 public proctored exam sessions at 23 different venues around the state. The boating classes yielded 7314 newly certified boat operators while 4251 persons received their certificates after completing the on-line course and taking a proctored exam. Six persons were issued their “NH Only” certification by successfully completing the test-out option.

Since the mandatory education requirement became law, Marine Patrol has certified approximately 186814 persons.

New Marine Patrol Headquarters Building Project

2016 also saw the completion of the construction of the new Marine Patrol Headquarters Building. The Division took possession of the building in September and opened to the public in October. The building was dedicated with a ribbon cutting ceremony in November. The building was officially named the “David T. Barrett Marine Patrol Headquarters Building” after the long serving Director of Safety Services. Ribbon cutting was completed by Governor Maggie Hassen and Director Barrett’s widow, Wendy.

David T. Barrett Marine Patrol Headquarters, Gilford
State of New Hampshire

Inter-Department Communication

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy C. Dunleavy ID #003
Captain, Marine Patrol Bureau
Mr. Thomas Quarles  
Chairman  
Public Waters Access Advisory Board  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord NH 03302

Dear Chairman Quarles:

Throughout 2016 the Department of Transportation actively participated as a member of the Public Waters Access Advisory Board (PWAAB). The Department has continued to monitor and provide our transportation expertise on various PWAAB related projects.

- The Department has been able to provide transportation related insight to various surplus land reviews that were of interest to the board.

- The Department has played an active role in investigating public water access issues pertaining to State Highway Right-of-Way.

- The Department has responded to requests regarding investigation of and resolution of incongruities related to the nature of railway crossings for public water access points.

- The Department has also been able to provide transportation related insight to various projects that are active on the PWAAB project matrix as well as for projects not on the matrix but of interest to the board.

- The Department has continued to work with PWAAB identifying boat access needs along the States’ river corridors.

- The Department has responded to inquiries, and facilitated sign installation where suitable, regarding installation and/or replacement of signs for public water access points on State Highways.

- The Departments Division of Project Development continually investigates opportunities to improve access to public waters during the design process of our projects as well as through our regularly scheduled inter-agency coordination meetings with various natural resource agencies.

The Department shares the goal of the Board to provide adequate access to public waters of our State and is glad to be a willing partner.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

Rebecca Martin  
Environmental Manager
State of New Hampshire
Governor’s Commission on Disability

The Honorable Christopher T. Sununu, Governor

Executive Council Members

Councilor Joseph D. Kenney
Councilor Andru Volinsky
Councilor Russell E. Prescott
Councilor Christopher C. Pappas
Councilor David K. Wheeler

Charles J. Saia, Executive Director
December 31, 2016

His Excellency Christopher T. Sununu, Governor
State House
107 North Main St.
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

On behalf of the New Hampshire Governor’s Commission on Disability, it is our privilege to submit the annual report of activities of the Commission and staff from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, as required by RSA 275-C:6 VI.

According to the University of New Hampshire’s Institute on Disability, there are over 166,000 individuals with disabilities in the State of New Hampshire alone. While the GCD takes on many tasks in the interests of these individuals, its primary duties are to advise and inform the governor, state agencies and the public on disability-related issues.

During FY16, the GCD exercised its flexibility in the face of a changing culture. Thinking out of the box and facing challenges that only a small agency can, the GCD embraced social media, redesigned its electronic newsletter, expanded its vision of an annual Open House, dynamically supported other agencies in their agendas and trade show events, branded and adapted Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) materials to answer the public’s questions, oversaw a lively Legislative Committee and other subgroups as a means to fulfill its mandate to inform, advise and educate regarding policy and administration of programs and services for those with a disability.

Much energy was expended working with Commissioners and department heads to keep New Hampshire focused on awareness of universal design and inclusiveness, all with a common sense approach. Establishing an ADA Assistance Form, posted on the web, and developing Quick Links to a variety of topics, were fruit of this focus.

Another highlight was the presentation of the Accessibility Awards in conjunction with the Governor’s office and the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, to recipients who had gone above and beyond the criteria set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act. The event also included a Lifetime Achievement Award presented to former Chief Justice John T. Broderick, Jr. for his remarkable efforts, in particular, the Campaign to Change Direction.

The GCD received ongoing grants to administer programs essential for communications for those with a disability. In addition, the Client Assistance Program, which is 100% federally funded, continues to be a source of information and intervention regarding employment issues for those with a disability.

The GCD looks forward to continuing our collaborative efforts across New Hampshire.

Charles J. Saia
Executive Director
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Commission Members - Gubernatorial Appointed

As of 1/1/17

Paul VanBlarigan, Chairman
H. Dee Clanton
Barry Conway
Laura Davies
Ann Dillon
Lisa DiMartino
Nancy Druke
Jim Hinson
Carol Holmes
Ellen Keith
Irene Lover
Mariellen MacKay
Thomas Manning
Edmund Meskys
Kate Miller
Mary Morin
Karen Privé
Michael Racette
John Richards
Frederick Roberge
Katherine Russell
Patrick Shannon
Susan Stearns
Clyde Terry
Sandra Teti

Ex-officio Members

William Finn, Department of Education, Services for Blind and Visually Impaired
James Craig, Commissioner, Department of Labor
George Copadis, Commissioner, Department of Employment Security
Jeffrey Meyers, Commissioner, Department of Health & Human Services
Lisa Hinson-Hatz, Department of Education, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
Internal Committees

Executive Steering Committee
Nomination/Governance Committee
Architectural Barrier Free Design Committee
Legislative Committee
Governor’s Accessibility Awards Committee
Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program Committee
Accessible Parking Work Group
ADA Focus Group

External Committees
Affiliated with the
Governor’s Commission on Disability

RSA 125-Q Commission on Deafness & Hearing Loss
Legislative Commission on PTSD & Traumatic Brain Injury
Statewide Coordinating Council for Community Transportation
Medical Care Advisory Council
Public Water Access Advisory Board
New Hampshire State Rehabilitation Council
Statewide Independent Living Council
Executive Director
Charles J. Saia

As the Executive Director, Charles J. Saia is responsible for all operations of the Governor’s Commission on Disability. The Executive Director ensures operational efficiency and compliance with governing statutes and regulations. He acts as a liaison between the Commission, the Governor’s Office, the public, the Agency office, and the State legislature, and reports directly to the Governor of New Hampshire. In conjunction with the Executive Steering Committee, he provides the vision for the future of the Commission and ensures that its intended mission is fulfilled. The Executive Director works closely with other State agencies, gubernatorial-appointed commissions, committees, and boards to improve and expand accessibility throughout the State of New Hampshire. This includes, but is not limited to: New Hampshire Fish and Game, the Department of Resources and Economic Development, the Department of Education, and the Public Water Access Advisory Board. Other responsibilities include drafting legislation and testifying before legislative bodies, conducting Commission meetings alongside the Chairman of the Commission, overseeing several internal committees, and supervising the functions of all day-to-day operations of the Commission.
Staff Operations

Each member of the staff of the Governor’s Commission on Disability performs a variety of tasks essential to the agency’s success. Although each position is defined by specific skills and responsibilities, collaboration within the Commission is considerable, as the members of the staff will come together to contribute to the success of the office. For example, a general inquiry from a member of the public is typically directed to the Administrative Secretary at the onset, but it could and may be taken by any member of the staff.

As the first line of communication between the Commission and the public, the Administrative Secretary manages all incoming correspondence. The Administrative Secretary coordinates professional public meetings with various bureaus, committees, and commissions and plans public events and activities. The Administrative Secretary designs and distributes promotional materials and offers editorial support to the department. The position develops procedural, computer-based systems and implements various, creative, and highly technical projects and services, under the authority of the Executive Director.

The Business Administrator fields a large number of inquiries, as well. As the office’s fiscal agent and manager of the Commission’s financial functions, the Business Administrator is responsible for the coordination and integration of a variety of business activities. This includes management of Federal grant fund responsibilities, administration of fiscal operations, developing and implementing agency budgets, purchasing, processing of incoming funds, reconciling payroll, cost containment, and various budget matters. In addition, the Business Administrator maintains detailed department records, and provides personnel and human resource support.

General inquiries are often directed to the Research and Information Specialist, who explains to the public the central mission of the Governor’s Commission on Disability. The position hosts educational events that inform people of the opportunities available to people with disabilities and of issues pertaining to them. Much of the position’s research involves compliance with laws related to disability in both the public and private sectors, which may involve coordination with other State agencies and departments.
The position requires a wide range of knowledge of disability-related legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, the Architectural Barriers Act, and the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Inquiries pertaining to accessibility and architectural design fall under the domain of the Accessibility Specialist, who reviews State and public properties for compliance with both the Americans with Disabilities Act and the New Hampshire Code for Barrier-Free Design. The position consults with public entities and individuals to ensure compliance with existing law and to identify methods for improving access for individuals with disabilities to goods and services. To this end, the Accessibility Specialist performs site visits and provides technical assistance related to architectural compliance. Additional activities include, under the supervision of the Executive Director, tracking and reporting legislative activity, serving on committees, and assisting with grant fund efforts.

An inquiry made by a client of Vocational Rehabilitation will likely be taken by the Ombudsman for the Client Assistance Program (CAP). CAP is a service that provides vocational training, mediation, and rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities. The Ombudsman acts as a facilitator between the CAP and its clients, developing solutions to complicated problems in the workplace. Requiring substantial knowledge of occupational practices and laws, this position is a pivotal component of the State of New Hampshire’s effort to provide educational outreach to the disability community. In addition, this position involves considerable interaction with other State agencies, thereby fostering interagency relationship development.

Any questions regarding the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) are answered by the SILC Program Assistant. The Program Assistant supports the functions of the Statewide Independent Living Council and is a liaison between the Statewide Independent Living Council and the Governor’s Commission on Disability. The position is housed at the Governor’s Commission on Disability under an agreement with the Department of Education. The SILC Program Assistant informs the public about the responsibilities of the Council and explains how to apply for Council membership. In addition, the Program Assistant completes special projects under the supervision of the Executive Director.
Purpose

The Governor’s Commission on Disability is statutorily created pursuant to RSA 275-C, and is a statewide agency whose purpose is to serve people with disabilities. Through the provision of the following non-comprehensive list and supporting descriptions, the Governor’s Commission on Disability fulfills its purpose.

1. Advise the Governor, State Agencies and the NH Legislature on the needs, rights and interests of citizens with disabilities;

2. Coordinate and monitor state agency compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act;

3. Make recommendations regarding the adequacy of state programs, plans, and budgets for services for persons with disabilities;

4. Recommend legislation while monitoring and reporting on bills of interest to persons with disabilities;

5. Sponsor programs to educate the public about disability related issues;

6. Implement and operate the 100% federally funded Client Assistance Program designed to resolve problems that arise between persons with disabilities and vocational rehabilitation;

7. Administer the Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program to distribute telecommunication devices to persons with specific impairments impacting telephone use;

8. Serve as the State affiliate for the New England ADA Center;

9. Operate an information resource and problem-solving center;

10. House the Statewide Independent Living Council, an independent cross-disability council, which provides leadership and advocacy in support of the independent living philosophy; and,

11. Implement the statutory requirements imposed by RSA 275-C:11 regarding the Governor’s Commission on Disability, Architectural Barrier Free Design Committee.
The Governor’s Commission on Disability’s Initiatives

The Governor’s Commission on Disability has a number of initiatives designed to raise awareness of disability-related issues in the State. By working to ensure that the maximum number of people possible understand the challenges faced by, and opportunities available to, individuals with disabilities, the Commission fosters a more compassionate cultural environment and builds towards its perpetual goal of access for all. Part of this work involves the distribution of educational materials, such as manuals and pamphlets on the Americans with Disabilities Act and the rights of individuals with service dogs, to provide the public with immediate answers to everyday questions pertaining to disability. Similarly, the Commission promotes Disability Etiquette, a public awareness campaign developed to inform people as to what terminology and behavior are most desirable to use when interacting with individuals with disabilities.

Other work involves Legislative Training, a program in which individuals with disabilities learn about the legislative process and how they can participate in the democracy. In its partnership with the Union Leader, the Commission submits a monthly publication announcing upcoming events, trainings, workshops, and seminars on disability-related issues; and once a year, the Commission, in conjunction with the New England ADA Center, presents a public workshop in which architectural plans can be read and discussed. In addition, the Governor’s Accessibility Awards recognizes the outstanding accomplishments and leadership within a business, organization, or individual that supports independence, inclusiveness, accessible environments, and/or services for individuals with disabilities. The Commission remains grateful for the Governor’s support and ongoing participation in this annual event.
Client Assistance Program (CAP)

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is a 100% federally funded and mandated program originating from the Rehabilitation Services Act of 1973, as amended. The primary focus of CAP is employment and associated topics as relevant to individuals with disabilities. CAP provides services to clients of Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living Services as well as to citizens with questions relative to Title 1 of the ADA (Employment). CAP is an unbiased source of information, resources, and policy interpretation. CAP also provides advocacy and mediation on both individual and systemic levels. CAP strives to find resolution among involved parties at the lowest possible level of intervention with the least amount of disruption in services possible. The CAP Ombudsman administers the program under the supervision and guidance of the Executive Director of the GCD.

CAP empowers the GCD to provide services to consumers of both Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living services at no cost to the consumer or general funds.

CAP activities complement the work of the GCD and strengthen the ability of the GCD and CAP working together to assist those with disabilities in removing barriers to program participation and employment.

CAP is able to provide counsel, training, and services to individuals, collaborative partners, and agency staff utilizing a variety of forums and mediums lending to effectiveness.

CAP strives to resolve issues before they escalate and saves time and costs associated with involved litigious activities. Benefits to NH citizens include improved program access and equitable service delivery.

CAP can provide relevant evaluation and interpretation of policy to providers of Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living service providers to inform systemic changes to procedure and program delivery.
Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program (TEAP)

RSA-362-E establishes the Governor’s Commission on Disability to administer the Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program. The program enables qualified persons in New Hampshire to access telephone service through the use of telecommunications equipment assistance.

The Telecommunications Equipment Assistance Program provides access to those persons whom, without appropriate equipment, would not be able to use telecommunication services effectively and thus would be unable to access public safety programs. As a part of the outreach function, applications will be made widely available to ensure that those qualified to be an equipment recipient have the opportunity to apply.
Statewide Independent Living Council

The Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) was created through Title V of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization of volunteers, who work to promote equal rights and access for individuals with disabilities in the State of New Hampshire. It provides leadership and advocacy in the realm of independent living, fosters a culture of informed choice, individual control, peer support, and self-sufficiency for all people with disabilities.

The Statewide Independent Living Council is housed in the Governor’s Commission on Disability and is fully funded by federal resources from Title VII through the New Hampshire Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. The Statewide Independent Living Council works closely not only with the Governor’s Commission on Disability and Vocational Rehabilitation, but with other organizations, such as Service Link, Granite State Independent Living, the Developmental Disabilities Council, Northeast Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Services, and the Brain Injury Association of New Hampshire, among others, to ensure that it is reaching the maximum number possible of individuals with disabilities.
The National Federation for the Blind’s “Newsline for the Blind”

The Governor’s Commission on Disability is annually appropriated to fund the National Federation of the Blind’s "Newsline for the Blind," otherwise known as, “NFB Newsline”. Newsline for the Blind is an audio information service that provides access to over four hundred written publications.

This electronic service gives any blind, visually impaired, or print-disabled person access to newspapers, magazines, and television listings, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. The service can be accessed by using a telephone, the internet, and by downloading to a digital talking book player or MP3 playing device. Subscribers can also choose to have publications sent directly to their email addresses, allowing them to read on their computer or portable device.
Various Highlights

* Collaborated with the Department of Motor Vehicles to distribute updated public distribution materials, including:
  - Accessible parking information and fact sheet
  - Winter parking reminder

* Developed a fluid, social media campaign to provide accurate and updated information, including:
  - Website Revision
  - Facebook Interactions
  - Twitter Updates
  - Promotional Material Distribution

* Created universal, accessible documentation for all materials disseminated by the Governor’s Commission on Disability, including:
  - Service Dog Brochure
  - Accessible Parking Brochure
  - ADA Assistance Request Form—various formats
  - Public Meeting Documents

* Public meetings provide accessible elements for each meeting or upon request, including:
  - CART reporting
  - Event/Personal Assistants
  - American Sign Language Interpreters
  - Ubi-Duo Communication Devices
  - Public Announcement System
  - Large Print Materials

* Client Assistance Program
  - Fostered a relationship with a life skills program at a local high school,
  - Participated in transition aged youth informational sessions,
  - Presented to a peer support agency for people having experienced mental health challenges,
  - CAP has endeavored to build and maintain positive, productive and mutually beneficial relationships with Vocational Rehabilitation staff to promote open communication and quality service delivery to New Hampshire citizens.
Mental Health & Wellness Initiative

The Governor’s Commission on Disability has partnered with the Department of Personnel's Employee Assistance Program, and Wellness Coordinator to bring an increased awareness of mental health and wellness to State of New Hampshire employees. With support from the Campaign to Change Direction, and the former Chief Justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court, John T. Broderick Jr., the Governor’s Commission on Disability’s vision to decrease the barriers and stigma of mental health issues.

Agency and Public Education

The Governor’s Commission on Disability intends to build upon its existing commitment to education of the public and State Agencies. With its Wellness Initiative, Architectural Plan Reading Workshops, partnering with the staff at the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Accessibility Site Visits, and plans for further, statewide education regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Governor’s Commission on Disability will move to the forefront of disability issue education.
Summary of Receipts and Expenditures
FY 2016

The Governor’s Commission on Disability strives to ensure that all of its financial resources are applied to the most productive purpose and with the maximum efficiency. To ensure transparency in this process, below please find a summary of the Commission’s receipts and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2016.

Approved Budget 699,431.00

Expenses:
Operating Costs 46,025.97
Program Costs 147,302.18
Personnel Costs 419,979.38
Total Expenses 613,307.53

Revenue Sources:
SILC 10,799.84
NEADA 21,000.00
CAP 113,977.27
NFB 28,000.00
TEAP 96,000.00
Subtotal Revenue 269,777.11
General Fund 343,530.42
Total Revenue 613,307.53
Vision

Moving ahead, the Governor’s Commission on Disability hopes to increase its visibility within the State. Our hope is to continue to partner with our sister agencies and be a front line resource. We hope to offer panel discussions and bring together stakeholders who will roundtable and problem solve on ADA related issues throughout the State.

The Governor’s Commission on Disability is currently the State Affiliate and a grant recipient of the New England ADA, a member of the ADA National Network. Grant development is a focus of the Governor’s Commission on Disability and will be an asset to the current profit-producing programs, such as the TEAP, Newsline for the Blind, and Client Assistance Program. In addition, grant development will be advantageous to the profit-projected programs, such as Waivers and Non-Binding Letters of Opinion.

With the recent history of fast paced progress, it is foreseeable that the Governor’s Commission on Disability will continue to over achieve in its endeavors, while remaining true to its mission... Access for All.
The Governor’s Commission on Disability wishes to thank the constituents of New Hampshire for the unrelenting support towards the mission and purpose of the GCD. In addition, elected officials, legislative members, and the Governor and Council are recognized and praised for their commitment to access for all persons with disabilities.
Governor’s Commission on Disability
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