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COUNTY OF ERIE

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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June 23, 2011

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: MOU – US Fish and Wildlife Service
Sea Lamprey Trap at Scoby Dam**

Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests approval to enter into a MOU with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to construct and operate a Sea Lamprey Trap at the County's Scoby Dam Powerhouse facility on Cattaraugus Creek in the Town of Springville. Sea lamprey prey on commercially important fish species, such as lake trout, living off of the blood and body fluids of adult fish. During its life as a parasite, each sea lamprey can kill 40 or more pounds of fish.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Department of Parks, Recreation & Forestry. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

CHRIS COLLINS
Erie County Executive

14E-11

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry
Re: MOU – US Fish and Wildlife Service
Sea Lamprey Trap at Scoby Dam
Date: June 23, 2011

SUMMARY

The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry has received a request from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to refurbish the Scoby Dam Hydropower intake and tailrace for a new Lamprey trap system that will replace the remnants of an older trap system.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications to Erie County. All funds for this project will come from other sources.

REASONS FOR RECOMENDATION

It is in the best interest of the residents of Erie County and State of New York to protect our waterways and sea life from this parasitic Lamprey.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Lamprey trap at Scoby Dam in the Cattaraugus Creek must be refurbished. Sea lamprey prey on commercially important fish species, such as lake trout, living off of the blood and body fluids of adult fish. During its life as a parasite, each sea lamprey can kill 40 or more pounds of fish. These organisms were a major cause of the collapse of lake trout, whitefish, and chub populations in the Great Lakes during the 1940's and 1950's. The USFWS will design, install, and operate Sea Lamprey traps to prevent their proliferation and protect the fish life in our fresh water lakes and streams.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Negative action will allow more of the Sea Lamprey to make its way downstream into Lake Erie and could have devastating effects on the fresh water fish life. Ultimately there will be negative effects to the recreational and commercial fishing industries.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive will enter into a MOU with the USFWS to construct and operate a Sea Lamprey Trap at the County's Scoby Dam Powerhouse facility on Cattaraugus Creek in the Town of Springville.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND FORESTRY

RE: MOU – US Fish and Wildlife Service
Sea Lamprey Trap at Scoby Dam

WHEREAS, the current Sea Lamprey trap at Scoby Dam is no longer functional; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry has received a request from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to construct and operate a Sea Lamprey trap at Scoby Dam Park; and

WHEREAS, the USFWS will be responsible for the design, construction, operation and funding for this trap; and

WHEREAS, this trap will help protect the fresh water fish life from this parasitic Lamprey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, License Agreement and Cooperative Agreement with USFWS for the construction, operation and maintenance of a Sea Lamprey Trap at Scoby Dam; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be delivered to the County Executive, the County Attorney and the Commissioner of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.