



PUBLIC NOTICE

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Office: USACE New England District
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PUBLIC NOTICE USACE CONNECTICUT RIVER HYDRILLA RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECT WATER EXCHANGE DYNAMICS STUDY

Interested parties and stakeholders are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District, in partnership with the Lower Connecticut (CT) River Valley Council of Governments (RiverCOG) & the CT Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), is conducting a research and demonstration project to better understand and control the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla (*hydrilla verticillata*) that is currently spreading throughout the lower Connecticut River and its tributaries. To collect additional field data in support of this project, the USACE New England District and the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), plan to conduct two additional dye studies in the Connecticut River. As was done in the summer of 2023, USACE will be applying Rhodamine WT (RWT) tracer dye at two additional sites to better understand their water exchange dynamics. The data collected during these two dye studies can be used to inform the development of individual herbicide treatment plans for control of the hydrilla at the selected sites.

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

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

Table 1. RWT Dye Study Locations

Locations	Town	Application Date
Salmon River	East Haddam, CT	Tuesday Oct. 1
Parker's Point	Chester, CT	Wednesday Oct. 2

The schedule in this notice is subject to change and will be updated and posted to the USACE project website:

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

Check the website to view any changes to the schedule.

To request more information about the dye study, contact: Keith Hannon, Project Manager, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, (978) 318-8833, CTRiver-Hydrilla@usace.army.mil.