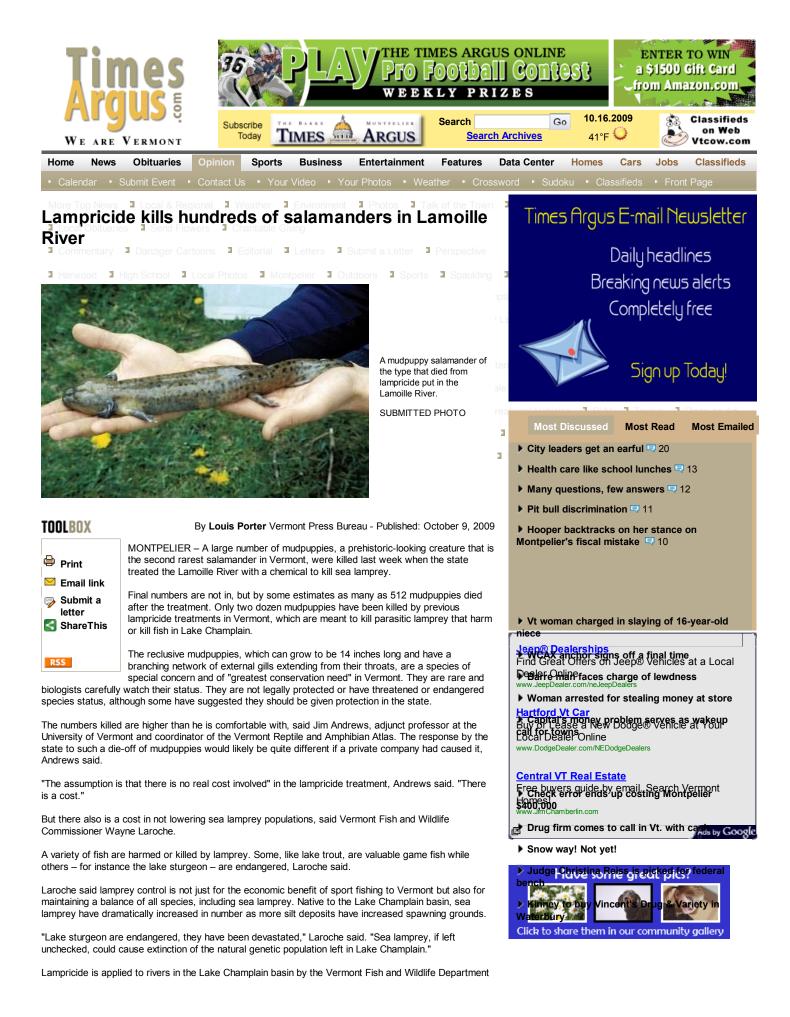
Lampricide kills hundreds of salamanders in Lamoille River: Tim... http://www.timesargus.com/article/20091009/NEWS02/9100903...



in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

According to a recent statement from the Vermont department "under the sea lamprey control program, TFM (3-trifluoromethyl-4-nitrophenol) is applied in precise concentrations to the streams in a continuous, metered manner over a 12-hour period in order to kill the immature, larval form of the sea lamprey." The application, according to that statement, should have "little or no effects on populations of other aquatic species."

But the number of mudpuppies killed a week ago raises questions about how well biologists understand the mudpuppy population, the effect of the lampricide, and the potential that other stresses put the creatures at risk during such treatments, Andrews said.

"These are complex systems we are tinkering with," he said.

"It is a large number," Laroche said of the mudpuppies killed. But, he added, "I am not alarmed."

The large number of dead mudpuppies might mean that the Lamoille, which had never before been treated with lampricide, has a very high population of the mottled brown salamanders, he said.

"We could have an abundance of mudpuppies and just have a situation where it is difficult to find them and catch them," Laroche said.

Laroche said as the data and research on the most recent lampricide treatment comes in, it will be evaluated objectively and thoroughly.

"If we find out something went wrong on this treatment we are going to make sure it doesn't happen again," Laroche said.

But lamprey control is a very political issue, Andrews said, in part because of its effect on sport fishing, and fish and wildlife scientists can be afraid to speak out.

Past lampricide applications have killed other types of lamprey that do not pose the same risk to fish, including the endangered brook lamprey, although apparently this was not the case in the most recent application.

"It doesn't distinguish between sea lamprey and the other species," said Andrews.

But Laroche said the department does what it can to avoid killing other lamprey species.

"We are doing everything we can to minimize the impact on brook lamprey," Laroche said.

v						
READER COMMENTS						
No comments.						
You must be logged in to le	eave a comment. Register Lo	og In				
Logout						
VT Production Company Low cost & fast turnaround videos photos for TV, Web, & Print more! www.greenriverpictures.com	Ukrainian Giant Shrimp Ukrainian Giant Shrimp Monster Watch this story! www.russiatoday.com	Used Cars in Vermont Find quality used cars in your area View local listings today! www.SticKars.com	Foreclosure Deals Save 50% on Foreclos Search our Listings To www.HUDforeclosed.co	oday!		
ē				Ads by GOOgle		
Home News Obituaries Opinion Sports Business InViTe Features Data Center Blogs Classifieds Homes Cars Jobs						
© 2009 Times Argus	Careers Contact I	Js Partners Privacy Polic	cy Subscriber	Agreement	Search	Go