

March 30, 2020

**Biodiversity Coordinator**

MNRF - Biodiversity Section

300 Water Street
5th Floor, North tower
Peterborough, ON
K9J 3C7
Canada

Submitted online at: <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-1163>

**Re: Developing Prevention and Response Plans for European water chestnut and water soldier under the Invasive Species Act, 2015. ERO number: 019-1163**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry’s (MNRF) proposed Prevention and Response Plans for European water chestnut and water soldier. The Nature Conservancy is a world-wide, non-partisan, science-based organization that seeks to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We have conservation projects in 79 countries around the world; our Canadian affiliate is called Nature United. Our staff and volunteer leaders work to identify and support solutions to environmental challenges that support the planet’s diversity of life as well as human well-being.

TNC is working in the Great Lakes to support efforts that will harmonize aquatic invasive species (AIS) policy and regulations in the Great Lakes Region. Strong, consistent AIS regulations are important to protect our common natural resources in the Great Lakes. We congratulate Ontario on your ***Invasive Species Act, 2015***, and support your efforts to implement it.

The Prevention and Response Plans for European water chestnut and water soldier, which are prohibited invasive species in Ontario, will support monitoring, controlling, and eradication of these invasive plants. The plans describe what activities can be performed, who can perform them, and limitations necessary to prevent their further spread. The plans are thoughtful, clear and well written. Ontario’s efforts will help prevent the expansion of these AIS and protect other areas in the Great Lakes region.

TNC supports the finalization and implementation of these plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to reach out if you have questions about our work or these comments, contact information below.

Sincerely,

David A. Hamilton, Senior Policy Director

The Nature Conservancy

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