

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016

STATE LEGISLATURE

Methoprene Ban Advances

BY CHRISTOPHER WALSH

Days after he was asked to co-sponsor a bill that would ban methoprene, the mosquito larvicide that is suspected of harming nontarget species including lobster and crabs, in coastal areas, State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle did just that.

On Tuesday, Mr. LaValle followed his State Assembly colleague, Fred W. Thiele Jr., introducing a Senate counterpart to Mr. Thiele's bill that would prohibit the use of methoprene in any fish habitat in any municipality adjoining Long Island Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, along with their connecting water bodies, bays, harbors, shallows, and marshes.

Kevin McAllister of Defend H2O and Tyler Armstrong of the East Hampton Town Trustees attended Mr. LaValle's annual environmental round table last Thursday in Riverhead. Though both asked the senator to consider co-sponsoring Mr. Thiele's bill, Mr. LaValle was noncommittal. His office did not return calls on Monday and Tuesday seeking clarification of his intentions, but on Tuesday he demonstrated that he had listened to Mr. McAllister and Mr. Armstrong's concerns.

Should the ban become law, methoprene could be applied only on an emergency basis as determined by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services.