



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

Senator Ritchie Protects Historic Walleye Spawning Run

PATTY RITCHIE March 26, 2012

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Return of 24-Hour Patrols Requested by Ritchie to Prevent Poaching

Senator Patty Ritchie today announced that the state has reinstated 24-hour Environmental Conservation patrols that traditionally protect the historic walleye spawning run in Rossie.

“When I first learned from North Country sportsmen that the patrols had been removed due to budget cuts, I sprang into action, and won a commitment from the state DEC to restore protection during the crucial two-week spawn,” Senator Ritchie said. “I am pleased that the DEC has kept its word.

Senator Ritchie visited the site of the spawning run Friday, and contacted DEC Commissioner Joe Martens to thank him for responding to her request.

Members of the Black Lake Fish and Game Club and area anglers spent years working with the DEC to restore the spawning run, and helped make Black Lake and the surrounding area one of America’s top fishing destinations.

“Black Lake, the Oswegatchie and Indian Rivers are major destinations for anglers,” Senator Ritchie said. “A lot of small businesses depend on that natural resource. Too many people worked too hard for too many years to let poachers destroy what we have.”

“Hammond, Morristown, Macomb and Rossie’s tourist economy depends on the fishing we have in our lakes and rivers,” Senator Ritchie said. “I feel it’s vital to have New York State work with our sportsmen and listen to their concerns so we can protect our natural resources. I’m very glad that we were able to protect Rossie’s spawning bed for future generations.”