

A Need for Funding

Scientists, advocacy groups, and local and state governments have all worked together to build the framework for an invasive species management program for the next couple of decades, yet invasive species continue to infiltrate the Adirondack Park.



Aquatic invasive species managers have a vision of what education, spread prevention and eradication should look like, but they lack the resources to implement their vision.

Tell the Governor and Legislature to increase invasive species funding in the Environmental Protection Fund from \$4.7 m to \$10 m.



The Adirondack Council is the largest citizen environmental group in New York State working full-time, on a daily basis in the Adirondack Park, in the state capital and in Washington to preserve this six-million-acre treasure.

Founded: 1975

Mission: The Adirondack Council mission is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park.

Vision: An Adirondack Park with clean air and water and large wilderness areas, surrounded by working farms and forests and vibrant communities.

Organization: Members in all 50 states; 10 staff members in two offices: 7 in Elizabethtown in the Adirondack Park, 3 in the state capital of Albany; Board of Directors.

Funding: Funded by private individuals and foundations - no government funding

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Photo Courtesy NYSDEC

Adirondack Waters are at Risk!

Aquatic invasive species threaten clean water and all that depends on it.

Visit us: AdirondackCouncil.org

The Threat



The waterways of the Adirondacks are threatened by invasive plant and animal species—Eurasian Water-milfoil, water chestnut, zebra mussels, and

gobis, to name a few. These invasives displace native species and threaten biodiversity; they interfere with fishing and swimming, reduce property values, and are expensive to control. Recreational fishing and boating are the major point of vulnerability for the entry of aquatic invasive species into Adirondack waters.

Aquatic invasive species primarily spread when boaters transport their watercraft between different bodies of water without cleaning in between uses. Plant fragments often ride on the hull, propeller, or in the bilge.



Photo Courtesy WVDNR

Invasive species hold the potential to devastate the Adirondack tourism economy, which generates \$1.2 billion per year in New York. Many sectors of the Adirondack economy depend on healthy lakes and streams for a variety of activities and services that will decline if this problem is not addressed.

The Solution

A three-pronged approach to aquatic invasive species management

Education

Educating anglers and boaters to clean their watercraft will lead to a significant decrease in the spread of aquatic invasive species. Great programs already exist to accomplish this task, including a handful of boat launch stewardship programs and the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. Universal signage at boat launches will educate the public when and where boat launch stewards are not present. Currently, these programs are limited in scope.

Spread Prevention

A Park-wide boat decontamination program would provide the most sure-fire way of preventing the movement of invasive species between bodies of water. Boat washing stations are effective and can be expensive, but their cost is a small fraction of the potential cost of an infestation.



Photo Courtesy ProtectLakeGeorge.com

Eradication

Once an aquatic invasive species population has established itself, removal is always costly to taxpayers. Hand and mechanical harvesting, benthic matting, biological control, and chemical treatment all require people to work long hours and use significant resources. Some municipalities have even created taxing districts in order to afford the work required.

Laws and Regulations

ECL Title 17 §9-1701-9

New York Invasive Species Council

Establishes a council consisting of representatives from nine key state agencies and an advisory committee of non-profit groups, universities, and science experts. The Council meets regularly to determine New York's greatest threats and propose management techniques to address them.

6 NYCRR Part 575

Prohibited and Regulated Invasive Species

Classifies invasive species and restricts their sale, use, propagation, and introduction.

6 NYCRR Part 59, §59.4, Part 190, §190.24

Invasive Species Control at State Boat Launching and Fishing Access Sites

No person shall launch their watercraft from a state boat launch without first cleaning, draining and drying their boat.



Courtesy TimesUnion.com (7/11/14)