Upper Saranac Watershed Stewardship Program 2023 Report

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Executive Summary:

This report summarizes the data and program highlights for the 2023 Watershed Stewardship program for the Upper Saranac watershed. The Upper Saranac Watershed Stewardship Program is an integrated AIS spread prevention program seeking to reduce or prevent the spread of AIS from entering and departing the watershed. This is accomplished by inspecting individual watercraft and hand removing plant and animal materials, and indirectly by raising public awareness of AIS concerns. This report includes Watershed Steward activities and projects that can be summarized in the following key points:

1. The Upper Saranac Watershed Stewardship Program includes Stewardship coverage at two NYSDEC Public Boat launches, Upper Saranac Lake at Back Bay and Fish Creek Public Campground. An AIS decontamination unit is positioned at the Back Bay Launch.

2. Between the two launches there were a total of 219 days of stewardship coverage (an increase from 2022 when there was 189 days of coverage).

3. Stewards inspected 3,044 watercraft and educated 5,673 visitors about AIS ecology and spread prevention measures. This is also an increase from 2022 when Stewards inspected 2,959 watercraft and educated 5,673 visitors.

4. Stewards intercepted 10 watercraft carrying AIS, that were either launching or being retrieved in 2023.

5. The percentage of boats found with AIS is generally consistent over the years and currently averages between .2 and.3%. The biggest fluctuation is the decline in the number of watercraft with AIS being retrieved from Fish Creek Campground.

6. Data retrieved from the Stewards at the Fish Creek launch indicated there was an 94% less chance of AIS found on boats being retrieved from 2016 to 2023. This is attributed to the Fish Creek AIS Harvesting Management Project.

7. The number of visitors reportedly taking measures to prevent the spread of AIS prior to arriving has generally been increasing. On average 95% of boaters using the launches showed prevention awareness.

8. The wide range of previously visited waterbodies prior to coming to the Upper Saranac watershed, indicates that the Upper Saranac watershed, without Watershed Stewardship coverage is vulnerable to AIS invasions. The majority of these prior waterways are known to have a variety of AIS.

9. In 2023 a total of 391 AIS hot water - high pressure decontaminations were performed at the Back-Bay launch -the highest performing station for non-mandatory sites in the Adirondacks.

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1 Project Introduction

The Adirondack Region is home to an extensive array of globally significant wetlands, thousands of lakes and ponds, and over 30,000 miles of rivers and streams. With an abundance of high-quality water resources, the Adirondacks present a crucial opportunity for stewardship. The Park protects almost six million acres of forests, mountains and waterways, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors and seasonal residents annually. Most prominent among the many attractions of the region are its opportunities in snow-free months for aquatic recreation, including paddling, sailing, motor boating, swimming, diving, camping, and fishing. Visitors to the Park expend $1.2 billion annually, with nearly 70% expressing an interest in water based recreational activities such as swimming, fishing or boating (Kelting, 2006). While productive from a socioeconomic perspective, many of these activities can, and have, spread aquatic invasive species (AIS) over the past two decades to over 90 Adirondack lakes.

AIS spread prevention programs are an integral component of an effective invasive species management regimen. Stewardship programs can help reduce the inadvertent introduction of new AIS to the Adirondacks, including species such as Brazilian elodea, hydrilla, quagga mussel and round goby. Although the threat of AIS introduction and expansion continues to raise alarm, there are hundreds of waterways in the Adirondack region with few or no AIS at present, which underscores both the opportunity as well as the obligation for concerted, coordinated AIS spread prevention activity.
Upper Saranac Lake (USL) itself is a 5,000-acre lake located in the towns of Harrietstown and Santa Clara in Southern Franklin County and is the sixth largest lake

within the Adirondack Park of New York. The shoreline (47 miles) is comprised of a combination of public (34%) and private property (66%). USL has two public motorboat launches; Back Bay on the northern end of USL and at the New York State Public Campground at Fish Creek. Currently there are two AIS found in the Upper Saranac watershed; Eurasian watermilfoil and Variable-leaf milfoil.

The Watershed Stewardship program was introduced to Upper Saranac Lake by the Upper Saranc Foundation in 2014 with the help from a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program. More recently the NYSDEC Adirondack Park-wide Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program has been the primary source of funding for 5 days per week coverage. Additional accompanying resources supported by grants from the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) complete stewardship coverage for seven day per week coverage in the summer months, and weekend coverage from Labor Day to Columbus Day.

In 2023 the Upper Saranc Foundation, collaboratively with the Town of Santa Clara applied for, and received a $20,000 grant from the LCBP and the NEIWPCC to supplement the coverage to full-time. The Adirondack Watershed Institute works under a contract from the NYSDEC and the LCBP to preform Watershed Steward duties.

Stewards performed their services at the two launches; USL and Fish Creek Campground. Two stewards were stationed at Back Bay on busier days and weekends; one steward to preform inspections while a decontamination technician preformed decontamination. This report includes Watershed Stewards accomplishments at both launch locations. Each of these waterway entries are popular recreational and tourism destinations.

The goal, to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is achieved by performing careful inspections of watercraft launched and retrieved at these popular recreational and tourism destinations. The stewards interacted with visitors during their shifts and inspected boats both entering and leaving the waterways, removing plant and animal fragments. The Stewards increased visitor understanding about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and spread prevention measures that can be utilized by the general public. The Upper Saranc Foundation's hot water, high pressure decontamination unit located at the Back Bay Boat launch was utilized when appropriate. Stewards offer boaters decontamination treatment of vessels and equipment that are considered a risk of spreading AIS, by not meeting the Clean, Drain and Dry standard. Stewards collected detailed data to be used in Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship Program's comprehensive summary report.

2 Boat Launches

Upper Saranac Lake at Back Bay: The Upper Saranac Lake State Boat Launch is located ½ mile from Route 30 in Back Bay on County Route 46. At the Back-Bay site, there was a total of 123 days of stewardship coverage. Stewards interacted with 3,428 visitors and performed 1,733 boat inspections. Of the 1560 groups asked, 94% of the boaters showed spread prevention awareness. In 2023 Watershed Stewards intercepted eight boats containing AIS. All intercepts were from boats launching into Upper Saranac Lake; four occasions of Eurasian watermilfoil, three Variable-leaf milfoil, and on one

instance of zebra mussels. Watercraft transporting the invasive came from New Jersey, Connecticut, Lake Champlain, and the St. Lawrence River.

No boats being retrieved from Upper Saranac Lake were found to have AIS. This is consistent from past years and is a strong indication that AIS management efforts on USL are effective. The USF's commitment to AIS hand harvesting can be attributed to the success of virtually eliminating USL as a vector for outbound AIS.

Launching watercraft originated from 81 different previously visited waterways. While the majority of watercraft were return visitors to Upper Saranac Lake, and many from within the Adirondack Park, other boats came from as far away as, the Atlantic Ocean, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Wisconsin.

The heaviest pressure of use for Upper Saranac Lake is from boats previously used in Lake Flower, Lower Saranac Lake, and Lake Placid; all known waterbodies with AIS present.

Watershed Steward Data - Upper Saranac Lake, Back Bay									
Year	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
# of Coverage Days	Unknown	114	122	131	102	122	125	101	123
# of Boats Inspected	1,215	1,605	1,713	1,862	2,082	2,609	2,190	1,184	1,733
% of Boats dirty / failed inspection	6.9%	4.4%	10.3%	5.0%	1.2%	2.5%	2.7%	3.6%	4.8%
% of Inspected Boats with AIS	0.5%	0.5%	1.5%	0.8%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.50%
# of Previous visited Waterways	57	72	80	76	81	92	92	60	81

Adirondack Watershed Institute - Watershed Stewards are on duty to inspect boats and trailers at the Upper Saranac, Back Bay Boat Launch. Photo Guy Middleton

Fish Creek Pond Campground: The Fish Creek Pond Boat Launch is located within Fish Creek Pond Campground, off of Route 30. Fish Creek and adjoining Rollins Pond Campgrounds are the busiest campgrounds in the state with nearly 650 sites and 190,000 average annual users, all with direct water access to Upper Saranac Lake.

At the Fish Creek launch, there was a total of 96 days of stewardship coverage. Stewards interacted with 2,245 visitors and performed 1,311 boat inspections. Of the 931 groups asked, 97% of the boaters showed spread prevention awareness. In general, there has been an increase in awareness since the inception of the program indicating that education outreach efforts of the program are effective.

Watershed Steward Data - Fish Creek Campground Boat Launch									
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# of Coverage Days	Aprox 50	59	111	107	100	58	114	88	96
# of Boats Inspected	555	934	1,947	1,741	2,097	1,226	1,746	1,775	1,311
% of Boats dirty / failed inspection	14.2%	7.3%	21.8%	4.3%	1.0%	3.8%	1.9%	0.5%	1.10%
% of Inspected Boats with AIS	2.5%	3.6%	3.9%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%	0.20%
# of Previous visited Waterways	57	57	92	46	88	71	86	85	52

A total of 52 different waterways were visited by watercraft prior to entering Fish Creek. The campground attracts a great diversity of users. Watercraft entering Fish Creek originated from a vast number of distant locations, coming from as far away as the the St. Lawrence River, the Mohawk River and the Finger Lakes. The heaviest pressure of use is from boats previously used in Conesus Lake, Lake Champlain, and the Finger Lakes; all known waterbodies with AIS present. This diverse infiltration is a concern as a possible vector for new types of AIS introduction and illustrates the importance of promoting "clean, drain, and dry" outreach, education and regulations.

Watershed Stewards intercepted two boats containing AIS. On both occasions the AIS intercepts were variable leaf-milfoil and from boats being retrieved from Fish Ceek. The number of AIS intercepted from boats being retrieved from the Fish Creek Campground has substantially decreased.

In 2023, only 0.4% of the 570 boats exiting the launch were found to have AIS on them. This is the lowest percentage of AIS found on boats being retrieved since the inception of the program. Comparitively in 2016, 7.2% of boats were found to have AIS upon exiting. This 94% decline can be attributed to the successful AIS harvesting management project that was initiated in 2016 by the Upper Saranac Foundation with assistance through grants from Parks & Trails New York and the New York State Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control program. Fish Creek Campground, once known as a major contributor to regional AIS spread may no longer be considered a significant vector for AIS spread.

Fish Creek Campground Boat Launch (Watercraft exiting the launch - Retrieval)								
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Inspections Performed	403	914	822	1104	611	786	785	570
Boats Transporting AIS	29	56	11	12	7	5	4	2
% Boats Transporting AIS	7.2%	6.1%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%

The Fish Creek AIS Management Project (FCAISMP) has significantly reduced AIS establishment through hand harvesting methods within the Fish Creek Campground. In seven years of the project the USF has removed over 33 tons of Eurasian and Variable-leaf watermilfoil from Square Pond, Upper Fish Creek Pond and Fish Creek stream. Each year of the FCAISMP there has been fewer signs of AIS infestation with less milfoil

Decontamination Unit: In an effort to further protect and significantly reduce the spread of AIS, a decontamination unit was installed in 2017. The hot water-high pressure decontamination unit is one of a growing number of volunteer and free of charge decontamination stations around the park. The decontamination unit owned by the USF is located and stored at Back Bay at the NYSDEC boat launch on USL. Installation of the unit was accomplished through a collaborative effort with the USF, NYSDEC, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, and the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute.The purchase of the unit was funded through a grant from the Cloudsplitter Foundation. An additional steward or decontamination technician was required for operation of the unit on weekends and busier days, one steward to preform inspections while a decontamination technician preformed decontaminations.

AWI – Watershed Steward decontaminating a watercraft. Photo: Guy Middleton

Stewards utilized the decontamination unit to promote "clean, drain, and dry" AIS transport regulations.

In 2023, 391 decontaminations were performed. The USL decontamination unit was the most utilized non-mandatory station in the Adirondacks, exceeding even the Glens Falls rest area along the Adirondack Northway. Lake George and Loon Lake are the only two mandator decontamination waterbodies in the Adirondacks. This is a significant increase in decontaminations for USL from previous years. The biggest factor for this increase can be attributed to the Watershed Stewards approach to persuade visitors to have their watercraft decontaminated.

3 Steward Special Projects:

Asian Clam Survey: In an effort to identify any locations in the Saranac headwaters where the invasive Asian clams are present, AWI Watershed Stewards participated alongside volunteers in a lake wide Asian clam survey. Stewards were assigned areas of responsibility to sieve through shallow, sandy areas of the watershed looking for invasive Asian Clams. Fortunately, no Asian clams were found. Second to prevention, the best defense against Asian clams is early detection for the greatest chance of eradication. Left unchecked, Asian Clams can reproduce exponentially and may cause negative ecological impacts including algae blooms. Concentrations of Asian Clams have the potential to negatively impact the tourism economy, reduce property values and hamper recreational activities. In the case of Asian Clams being found, the USF would implement the protocol outlined in the *Upper Saranac Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Preparedness Plan* for Eradication and would activate the Lake Champlain Basin AIS Rapid Response Task Force.

AWI – Watershed Steward Sieving for Asian Clams Photo: Guy Middleton

A full report on the Asian Clam Survey can be found at: https://usfoundation.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Survey-Report-2023.pdf

Terrestrial Invasive Management at the Back-Bay Boat Launch: The Upper Saranac Foundation, AWI -Watershed Stewards, ADK Action, and the NYSDEC, have worked collaboratively since 2019 to restore two-storm water bio-retention sites at the Back-Bay Boat Launch. When there was limited boat traffic at the launch, Watershed Stewards assisted in removing (weeding out) terrestrial invasive species from the bio-retention sites. The second site was reestablished in 2020 with mulch for weed control. Native flowers were planted in the spring of 2021 and again in 2022. The restoration of the sites created a native Wildflower Pollinator garden. Below is a list of the non-native species that were removed.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Invasiveness Ranking
Wild parsnip	*Pastinaca sativa*	Moderate
Lesser burdock	*Arctium minus*	Unranked
Reed canary grass	*Phalaris arundinacea*	High
White campion	*Silene latifolia*	Unranked
Creeping thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	High
Common mullein	*Verbascum thapsus*	Unranked
Mugwort	*Artemisia vulgaris*	High
Motherwort	*Leonurus cardiaca*	Unranked

Pollinators at the Back-Bay Boat Launch.

Photos: Guy Middleton

4 Methodology

Methods:
Watershed Stewards were stationed seven days/week at Back Bay and at Fish Creek Campground generally from 8:00AM to 4:30PM with one hour off for breaks and lunch. Stewards were instructed to stand up, gather visible data on each visitor party, including group size, type of watercraft, time, etc., greet each group whether launching or retrieving, offer a short educational message, share brochures and resources, and perform a careful boat inspection. Stewards shaped their approach according to the characteristics of the particular boat being launched, their assessment of visitor background and receptivity, and environmental considerations.

Each steward set up their station, that included an informational table, a chair, a sandwich board sign positioned to alert visitors to the steward's presence and a tent for protection from the elements. Each table included brochures, handouts, maps, identification guides, and other resources to expand the boaters' knowledge of AIS and appropriate spread prevention measures. Stewards presented live plant samples and other props such as Asian clam shells at every table with positive results. Digital data entry on iPads was used to store data. The stewards wore a blue safety reflective vest, and name tag displaying the AWISP logo.

Stewards provided boaters and visitors with interpretive information concerning AIS and conducted a short survey. The survey questions included what body of water boaters had most recently visited with their watercraft in the past two weeks and what steps were taken to prevent the transport of AIS between waterbodies. Stewards collected observable data including group size, boat type, horsepower of outboard engines, and state registration. Boater responses were recorded on an iPad using proprietary survey software and uploaded wirelessly to a server for weekly download and analysis by the Program Director.

All stewards provided a courtesy inspection of boats entering and leaving through the boat launches. Stewards performed a visual inspection of propellers, outdrives, trailer bunks, axles, live wells, bilges, areas containing standing water, and any other locations potentially harboring AIS. Stewards also asked visitors to lower their outboard motors to a vertical position to eliminate standing water and drain their bilges. Stewards offered informational literature on AIS and educated boaters how to prevent infecting other waterways.

Although the stewards performed courtesy inspections for visitors, they also recommended that boaters take responsibility for washing and inspecting their boats offsite. Watercraft that were found not to be clean, drained and dried were asked to proceed to the Back Bay on-site boat decontamination station where a decontamination technician would decontaminate their equipment.

Logistics:
AWI administrative staff regulalrly te stewards on site. These meetings provided the stewards a chance to share information with their supervisor. The meetings also provided continued staff training and afforded an opportunity for identification of AIS

found. Regional supervisors also reviewed the survey data for omissions, errors, or irregularities and followed up with the stewards for clarification.

5 Quality Assurance Tasks Completed

This project adhered to all quality control tasks outlined in the Lake Champlain Basin Program Boat Launch Steward QAPP. The Upper Saranac Lake and Fish Creek stewards participated in a week-long comprehensive training program to familiarize themselves with AIS identification and ecology, an introduction to stewarding and recreation study methods, the fundamentals of environmental interpretation, and much more.

Administrative staff members frequently reviewed steward data for accuracy, precision, completeness, apparent inconsistencies, and comparability. Data was evaluated for accuracy by comparing documented data with reasonable standards and benchmarks for traffic levels, boat types, and prior visits gathered in past-year or early-in records. Weekly review of electronic data allowed for quick and accurate corrections of inaccurate or confusing data.

Samples of organisms that were collected by stewards in the field were bagged and labelled with date, location, name of steward, time sample was obtained, and type of watercraft, waterbody last visited, and suspected species. All samples were transported to the AWI Environmental Research Laboratory where they were stored in a refrigerator to be examined by an aquatic plant specialist for final identification. The final identification was updated in the database if necessary. All samples were disposed of by composting on dry land, well away from surface water or intermittent stream flow areas.

6 Conclusions

Aquatic invasive species remain an ecological, social and economic challenge for communities everywhere. As new species make inroads to the United States, New York, and ultimately the Adirondack Park; the threat of invasion becomes increasingly significant. However, AIS issues continue to receive greater recognition in the media and legislative progress has been made to address the negative and costly impacts AIS wreak on our ecosystems and communities. In 2014, the Lake George Park Commission successfully implemented a mandatory inspection and decontamination program for all boats visiting Lake George. In addition, the NYSDEC adopted statewide regulations that require boaters to remove all visible organic material from their watercraft and drain all water holding compartments prior to launch and upon retrieval when utilizing state-owned water access sites. A succeeding bill, that expands the regulations to cover all navigable waters in New York State, also went into effect in 2016.

In 2015 the NYSDEC funded an Adirondack Park-wide Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention program. This program had a direct impact on the Saranac watershed by adding additional steward positions at AIS spread hub locations such as Fish Creek Campground. Furthermore, it provided more regional AIS protection with the addition of hot water, high pressure decontamination stations spread throughout the Adirondack Park.

Actions of the Saranac Lake Watershed Stewardship Program to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species have increased AIS awareness and have increase the number of users taking preventative measures prior to launching. The AWISPs comprehensive survey measures user AIS preventative habits and the program's success over time. Educational outreach such as presentations and exhibits have also increased users' awareness of the waterbody's ecosystem, increased stewardship and AIS awareness while helping improve and maintain water quality.

There is continued indications that management efforts are effective; through both Upper Saranac Lake shore owners and Fish Creek camper's comments relative to the reduction of nuisance aquatic vegetation, and with the reduction of AIS found and harvested from year to year. In addition, the limited number of confirmed AIS intercepts from watercraft being retrieved, from both Upper Saranac Lake and from Fish Creek Campground, indicates successful AIS management techniques occurring in the watershed.

7 Appendices

7.1 Abbreviation List:

AAISPP - Adirondack Park-wide Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program
AIS- Aquatic Invasive Species
AWI – Pauls Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute
AWISP – Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program
FCAISMP- Fish Creek AIS Management Project
NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NEIWPCC – New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
LCBP – Lake Champlain Basin Program
PSC – Paul Smith's College
Steward – Adirondack Watershed Institute Steward
USF – Upper Saranac Foundation
USL – Upper Saranac Lake
QAPP – Quality Assurance Project Plan

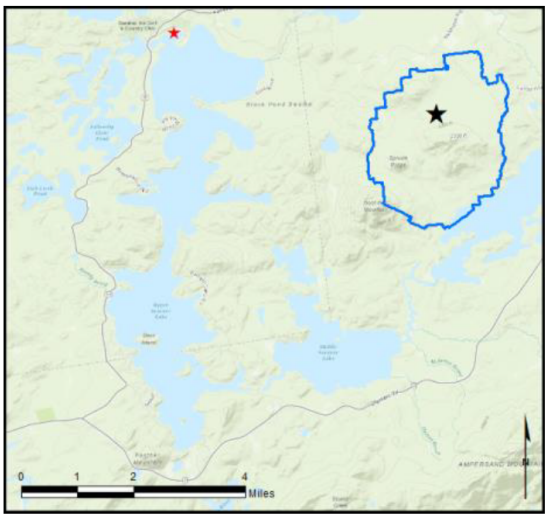
7.2 Upper Saranac Lake

Upper Saranac Lake

AIS intercepted: 8
Boats inspected: 1,733
Number of visitors: 3,428
Boats failing inspection: 4.8%
Decontaminations performed: 391

Dates of operation: June 3 – October 9
Total number of days covered: 123
Weekly coverage: 7 days
Visitors showing spread prevention awareness: 94%
Number of previously visited waterways: 81

AIS present in waterbody: Eurasian watermilfoil, variable-leaf milfoil
Stewardship history: 2001 - 2004, 2014 - present
Partnership: Upper Saranac Lake Association, Upper Saranac Foundation



Watercraft	Boat Type										total # boats observed	total # boats inspected
	Barge	Canoe	Dock	Kayak	Motor	PWC	Row	Sail	SUP	Wind		
# boats observed	8	116	9	103	1381	92	3	19	10	2	1743	1733
percentage of total boats	0.5%	7%	1%	6%	79%	5%	0.2%	1%	1%	0.1%	100%	99%

Boats observed at launch, including those not inspected. PWC=personal watercraft, SUP=stand-up paddleboard, Wind=windsurfer.

total # visitors	organisms found			total organisms	# boats dirty	# boats w/AIS	# of inspections	% of inspected boats dirty	% of inspected boats w/AIS
	entering	leaving	roadside						
3428	57	32	0	89	83	8	1733	4.8%	0.5%

Boats dirty = watercraft with any organic material, invasive, non-invasive or unknown.

Visitor Responses	AIS spread prevention awareness											# groups asked
	yes	Inspect	Wash	Drain	Bait	LW	Dry	Decon	same lake	first/frozen	didn't ask	
# groups	1464	1012	414	564	3	17	1088	468	45	20	89	1560
percentage of total groups asked	94%	65%	27%	36%	0.2%	1%	70%	30%	3%	1%	NA	

Yes = showed AIS spread prevention awareness; Drain = drained bilge; Bait = emptied bait bucket/disposed of bait; LW = drained livewell; Dry = dried boat; Decon = visited decon station; Same Lake = boat only goes in this lake; First/Frozen = first launch of the season or frozen boat.

Organisms Removed	Organism Type									total # AIS	% of inspected boats w/AIS
	Non-invasive	BN*	CLP*	HYD*	EWM*	VLM*	SWF*	WC*	ZM*		
# organisms	81	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	1	8	0.5%
percentage of total orgs	91%	0%	0%	0%	4%	3%	0%	0%	1%		

Non-invasive = native aquatic or terrestrial material; BN = brittle naiad; CLP = curly-leaf pondweed; HYD = hydrilla; EWM = Eurasian watermilfoil; VLM = variable-leaf milfoil; SWF = spiny/fishhook waterflea; WC= water chestnut; ZM = zebra mussel; */AIS = aquatic invasive species.

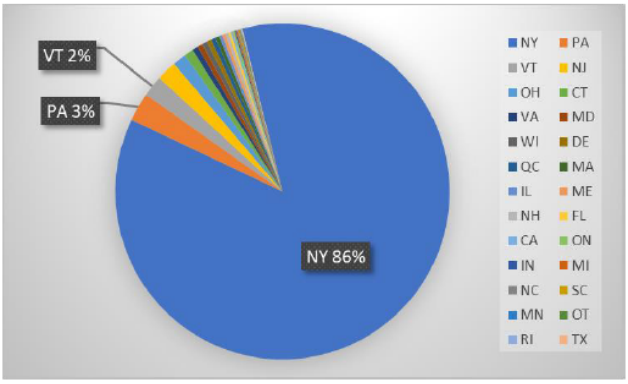
Upper Saranac Watershed Stewardship Program

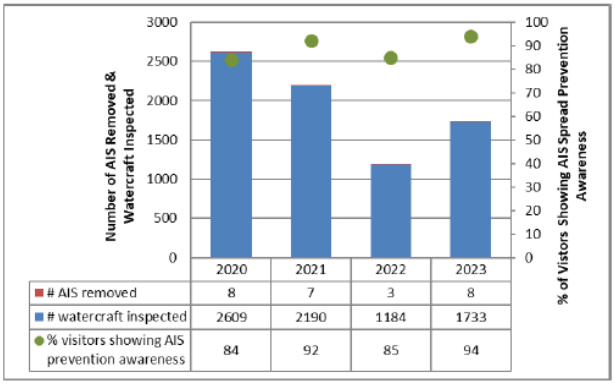
Aquatic Invasive Species Intercepted by Stewards	# found on boats launching	Previous Waterway	# found on boats retrieving	Previous Waterway
Eurasian watermilfoil	4	Greenwood Lake NJ (1), Lake Champlain (1), St Lawrence River (1), Upper Saranac Lake (1)	0	N/A
variable-leaf milfoil	3	Beach Pond CT (1), Upper Saranac Lake (1), *Unknown* (1)	0	N/A
zebra mussel	1	Lake Champlain (1)	0	N/A
Totals	**8**		**0**	

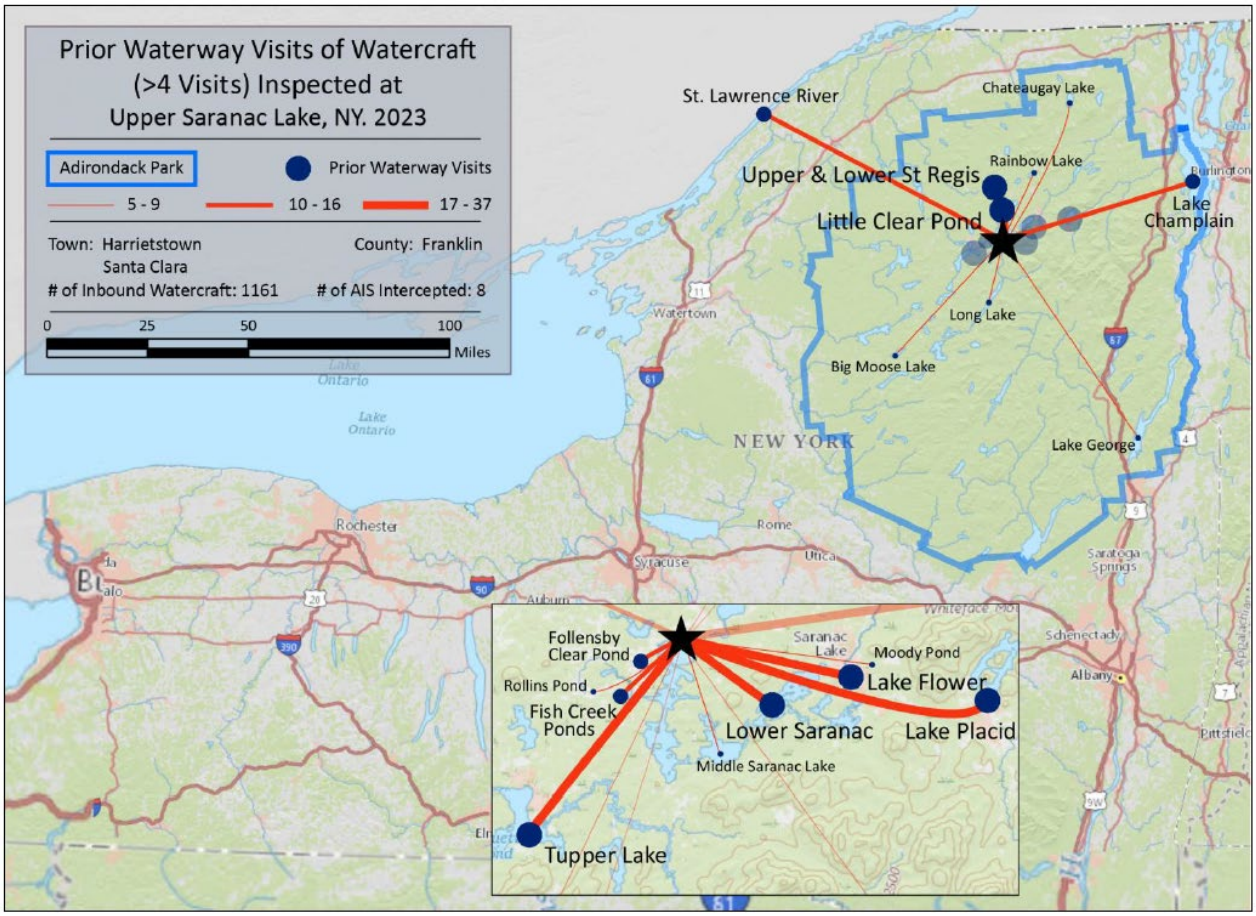
Previous Waterways for Launching Boats	# visits
NONE	422
SAME LAKE - PREVIOUS VISIT	371
Lake Flower	37
Lower Saranac Lake	35
Lake Placid	24
Little Clear Pond	24
Tupper Lake	23
Upper St. Regis Lake	16
Lake Champlain	13
UNKNOWN (boater doesn't know)	13
Fish Creek Ponds	10
Follensby Clear Pond	10
St. Lawrence River	10
Lake George	8
Lower St. Regis Lake	8
Big Moose Lake	6
Buck Pond (Rainbow Lake/Lake Kushaqua)	6
Chateaugay Lake	6
Long Lake	6
Rollins Pond	6
Middle Saranac Lake	5
Moody Pond (Franklin County)	5
Atlantic Ocean	4
Lake Colby	4
Clear Pond (Essex County)	3
Conesus Lake	3
Cranberry Lake	3
Great Sacandaga Lake	3
Lake Clear	3
Little Wolf Pond	3

Previous Waterways for Launching Boats	# visits
Meacham Lake	3
Saratoga Lake	3
Second Pond	3
Franklin Falls Pond (Franklin County)	2
Grass River Flow (St Lawrence County)	2
Lake Ontario	2
Lake Titus (Franklin County)	2
Oneida Lake	2
Potomac River	2
Skaneateles Lake	2
Adirondacks (unspecified)	1
Beach Pond, Voluntown, CT	1
Bear Pond (Hamilton County)	1
Beltzville Lake, Beltzville State Park, PA	1
Black Lake (St Lawrence County)	1
Black Pond (Franklin County)	1
Canachagala Lake (Herkimer County)	1
Cazenovia Lake	1
Chazy Lake	1
Clear Lake (Jefferson County)	1
Cranberry Lake, Byram Township, NJ	1
Crane Pond (Essex County)	1
Delaware River	1
East Sidney Lake (Delaware County)	1
Finger Lakes (unspecified)	1
Fourth Lake	1
Fulton Chain of Lakes (unspecified)	1
Geneva Lake, Walworth County, WI	1
Grass Lake (Jefferson/St Lawrence Counties)	1

Previous Waterways for Launching Boats	# visits
Greenwood Lake (Orange County)	1
Greenwood Lake, West Milford, NJ	1
Hadlock Pond (Washington County)	1
Harvey's Lake, Harveys Lake, PA	1
Hoel Pond	1
Lake Erie	1
Lake Waccabuc (Westchester County)	1
Lily Lake, Wapwallopen, PA	1
Lincoln Pond (Essex County)	1
Little Long Pond (Franklin County)	1
Loon Lake (Franklin County)	1
Merrimack River, MA	1
Middle Pond (Franklin County)	1
Mirror Lake	1
Otter Lake (Cayuga County)	1
Owasco Lake	1
Raquette Lake	1
Raquette River, NY	1
REFUSED TO ANSWER	1
Round Lake (Essex County)	1
Saranac River	1
Schroon Lake	1
Schroon River, NY	1
Seneca Lake	1
Seneca River	1
Smith Mountain Lake, Bedford County, VA	1
South Lake (Herkimer County)	1
St. Regis River, NY	1
Taylor Pond (Clinton County)	1
Total	**1161**







Back Bay Boat Launch on Upper Saranac Lake

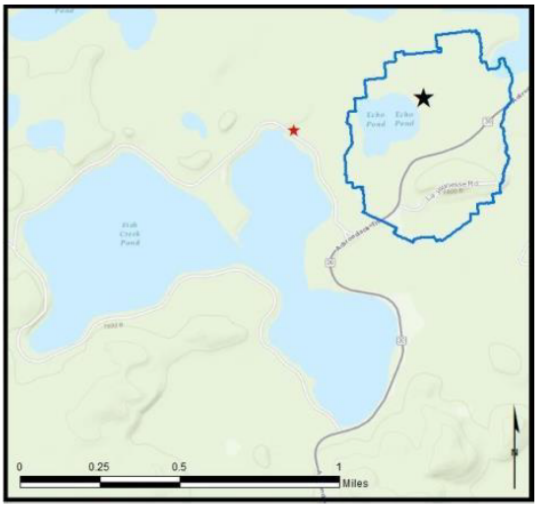
7.3 Fish Creek Campground

Fish Creek Ponds

AIS intercepted: 2
Boats inspected: 1,311
Number of visitors: 2,245
Boats failing inspection: 1.1%

Dates of operation: May 30 – October 7
Total number of days covered: 96
Weekly coverage: 7 days
Visitors showing spread prevention awareness: 97%
Number of previously visited waterways: 52

AIS present in waterbody: Eurasian watermilfoil, variable-leaf milfoil
Stewardship history: 2014 - present
Partnership: Upper Saranac Lake Association, Upper Saranac Foundation



Watercraft	Boat Type										total # boats observed	total # boats inspected
	Barge	Canoe	Dock	Kayak	Motor	PWC	Row	Sail	SUP	Wind		
# boats observed	2	246	2	422	474	134	3	1	34	0	1318	1311
percentage of total boats	0.2%	19%	0.2%	32%	36%	10%	0.2%	0.1%	3%	0%	100%	99%

Boats observed at launch, including those not inspected. PWC=personal watercraft, SUP=stand-up paddleboard, Wind=windsurfer.

total # visitors	organisms found			total organisms	# boats dirty	# boats w/AIS	# of inspections	% of inspected boats dirty	% of inspected boats w/AIS
	entering	leaving	roadside						
2245	0	16	0	16	15	2	1311	1.1%	0.2%

Boats dirty = watercraft with any organic material, invasive, non-invasive or unknown.

Visitor Responses	AIS spread prevention awareness											# groups asked
	yes	Inspect	Wash	Drain	Bait	LW	Dry	Decon	same lake	first/frozen	didn't ask	
# groups	905	609	333	97	3	8	400	28	24	66	4	931
percentage of total groups asked	97%	65%	36%	10%	0.3%	1%	43%	3%	3%	7%	NA	

Yes = showed AIS spread prevention awareness; Drain = drained bilge; Bait = emptied bait bucket/disposed of bait; LW = drained livewell; Dry = dried boat; Decon = visited decon station; Same Lake = boat only goes in this lake; First/Frozen = first launch of the season or frozen boat.

Organisms Removed	Organism Type									total # AIS	% of inspected boats w/AIS
	Non-invasive	BN*	CLP*	HYD*	EWM*	VLM*	SWF*	WC*	ZM*		
# organisms	14	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.2%
percentage of total orgs	88%	0%	0%	0%	0%	13%	0%	0%	0%		

Non-invasive = native aquatic or terrestrial material; BN = brittle naiad; CLP = curly-leaf pondweed; HYD = hydrilla; EWM = Eurasian watermilfoil; VLM = variable-leaf milfoil; SWF = spiny/fishhook waterflea; WC= water chestnut; ZM = zebra mussel; */AIS = aquatic invasive species.

Upper Saranac Watershed Stewardship Program

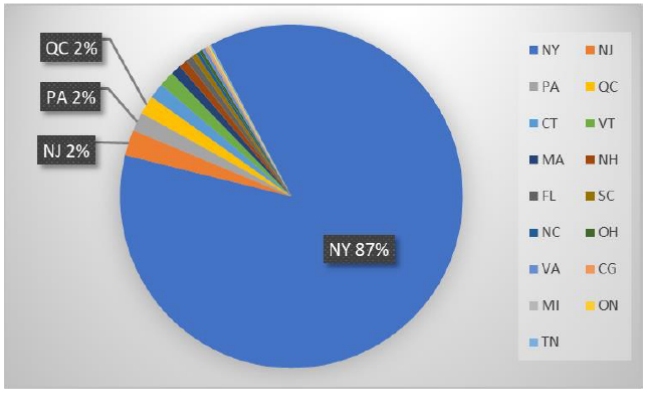
Aquatic Invasive Species Intercepted by Stewards	# found on boats launching	Previous Waterway	# found on boats retrieving	Previous Waterway
variable-leaf milfoil	0	N/A	2	Fish Creek Ponds (2)
Totals	**0**		**2**	

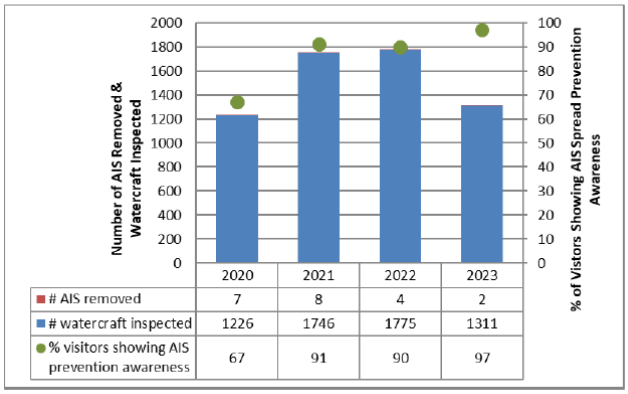
Previous Waterways for Launching Boats	# visits
NONE	354
SAME LAKE - PREVIOUS VISIT	232
Rollins Pond	11
RENTAL	10
Conesus Lake	8
Lake Champlain	7
Upper Saranac Lake	7
Finger Lakes (unspecified)	6
Lake Dunmore, Salisbury, VT	6
Little Clear Pond	6
Blue Mountain Lake	5
Indian Lake (Hamilton County)	5
Lower Saranac Lake	5
Raquette River, NY	5
Saranac Chain of Lakes (unspecified)	5
Loon Lake (Warren County)	4
Meacham Lake	4
Osgood Pond	4
Hoel Pond	3
Lake Erie	3

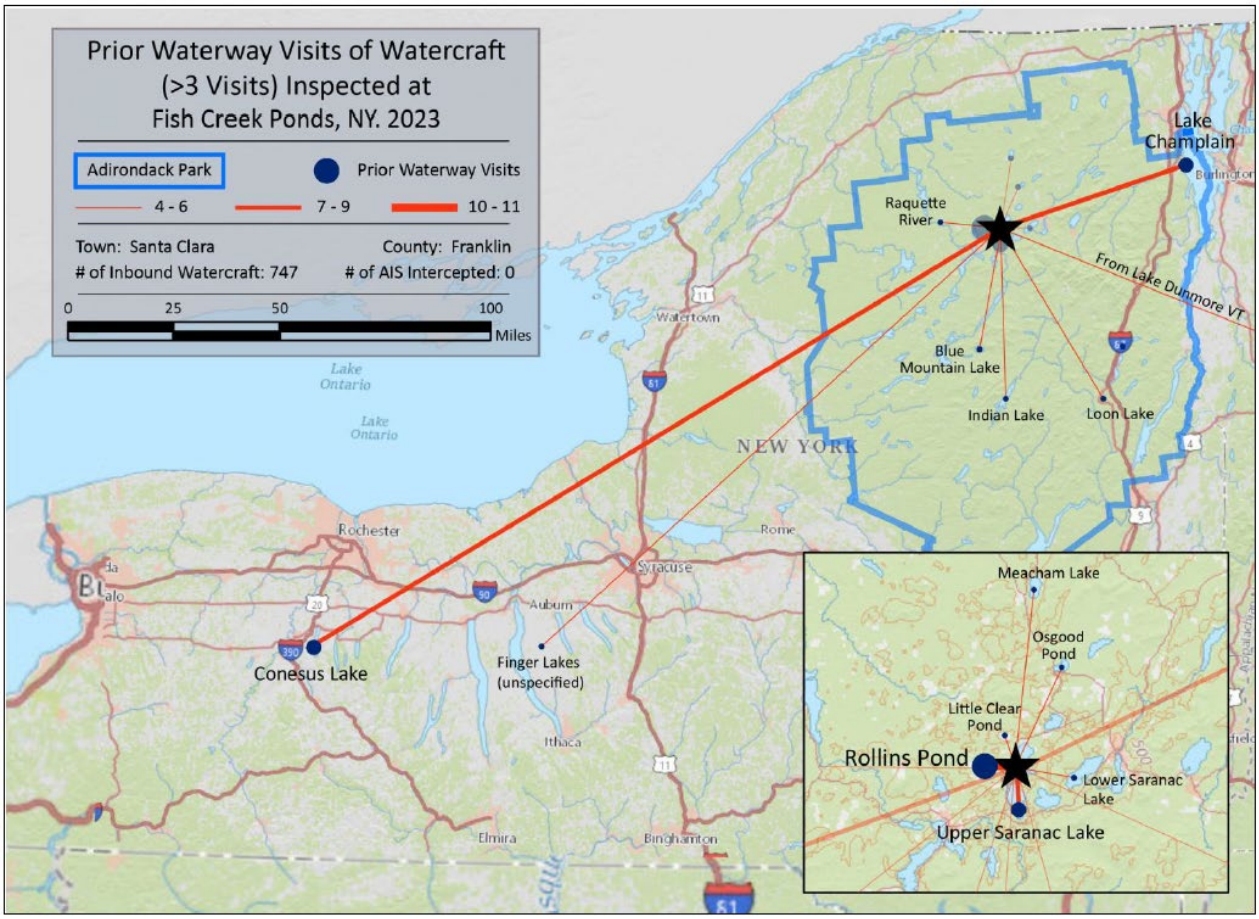
Previous Waterways for Launching Boats	# visits
Lake George	3
Lake Ontario	3
Oneida Lake	3
Tupper Lake	3
Great Sacandaga Lake	2
Hudson River	2
Lake Flower	2
Little Tupper Lake	2
Long Lake	2
Saranac River	2
Second Pond	2
St. Regis River, NY	2
Stillwater Reservoir	2
Upper St. Regis Lake	2
Adirondacks (unspecified)	1
Bear Lake (St Lawrence County)	1
Canadarago Lake	1
Caroga Lake	1
Chautauqua Lake (Chautauqua County)	1
Cranberry Lake	1

Previous Waterways for Launching Boats	# visits
Fourth Lake	1
Grafton Lakes State Park (Rensselaer County)	1
Higley Falls Reservoir	1
Lake Alice (Clinton County)	1
Lake Eaton	1
Lake Placid	1
Mohawk River	1
NOT ASKED	1
Onondaga Lake	1
Otisco Lake	1
Rangeley Lake, ME	1
Round Lake (Saratoga County)	1
Saratoga Lake	1
Schroon Lake	1
Seneca Lake	1
Seneca River	1
Silver Lake (Clinton County)	1
St. Lawrence River	1
Thirteenth Lake (Warren County)	1
Total	**747**

State of Motorized Boat Registration (n=621)







Fish Creek Boat Launch