2025 Fish Creek Aquatic Invasive Species Management Project Report

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Upper Saranac Foundation - Aquatic Invasive Divers in Fish Creek Campground

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Funding for AIS management efforts in prior years was provided through grants from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Adirondack Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Program, Parks & Trails New York, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and the Cloudsplitter Foundation.

The narrative and results presented in this report were produced by Guy Middleton, Executive Director of the Upper Saranac Foundation, in collaboration with the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute. Underwater harvesting efforts were overseen by the Upper Saranac Foundation's Aquatic Invasive Species Dive Leader, Bryce Davison, with prior management support provided by Invasive Solutions Dive Company, LLC and Aquatic Invasive Management, LLC.

Abbreviations List:

Abbreviation	Complete Text
AID	Aquatic Invasive Divers – USF Dive Crew
AIM	Aquatic Invasive Management, LLC
APIPP	Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program
AWI	Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute
EWM	Eurasian watermilfoil
FCAISMP	Fish Creek Aquatic Invasive Species Management Project
ISDC	Invasive Solutions Dive Company, LLC
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Steward	Adirondack Watershed Institute Steward
USLA	Upper Saranac Lake Association
USF	Upper Saranac Foundation
VLM	Variable-leaf watermilfoil

Executive Summary

The Fish Creek Aquatic Invasive Species Management Project (FCAISMP) builds upon more than a decade of leadership by the Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) in protecting the Upper Saranac watershed from aquatic invasive species (AIS). Across the Adirondack region, AIS pose serious ecological and economic threats, impacting water quality, native biodiversity, recreation, tourism, and property values.

At Fish Creek, USF targeted two high-priority invasive plants—Eurasian watermilfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum) and variable-leaf watermilfoil (Myriophyllum heterophyllum)—that threaten both ecosystem integrity and recreational use. Using diver hand harvesting as a precise mechanical control method, the project significantly reduced infestations within the Fish Creek Public Campground and minimized the risk of downstream spread to connected waterbodies.

The FCAISMP integrates prevention, monitoring, management, and public education as part of USF's comprehensive watershed protection strategy. Extensive outreach efforts—including distribution of educational materials and reinforcement of AIS prevention practices—engaged campground users and the broader public in stewardship efforts.

Together, these coordinated actions protect aquatic ecosystems, sustain the recreational and economic value of this heavily used public resource, and advance USF's mission to preserve clear, healthy waterways for future generations while preventing the export of invasive species to non-infested waters.

Key Highlights of the FCAISMP:

1. **Targeted Species:** Two AIS species—Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and Variable-leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)—were identified and targeted for removal in the NYSDEC Fish Creek Campground. Both species rank among New York State's most ecologically harmful invasives due to their biological characteristics, distribution, and impact.

2. **Management Plan Development (2016):** The USF devised a comprehensive AIS management plan for Fish Creek Campground in 2016 and sought funding to address an estimated initial project cost of $160,000. The primary objectives were to restore the 108-acre littoral campground waterfront, prevent AIS infestation downstream and regionally, and block the establishment of new AIS in the area.

3. **Implementation and Transition:** The initial intensive management phase spanned three years (2017–2019). 2025 marked the sixth year of the maintenance phase of the project. In 2022, the USF transitioned from contracting external dive teams to employing its own divers. This shift reduced costs and improved management efficiency by allowing the USF to directly oversee operations.

4. **2025 Harvest Operations:** Increased AIS densities and expansion in 2024 and 2025 prompted a larger effort than past years. In 2025 divers logged 18 days accounting for 556.5 management hours, removing a total of 2,970 lbs. of AIS (250 lbs. Eurasian

watermilfoil - EWM and 2,528 lbs. of variable-leaf watermilfoil -VLM) from Square Pond, Upper Fish Creek Pond and its upstream tributary up to the containment booms.

5. **Containment Booms:** In 2019, AIS containment booms, funded through a grant from the Cloudsplitter Foundation were installed just upstream of the Fish Creek Campground boat launch. These booms were strategically placed to intercept fragmented invasive plants, preventing their introduction into managed areas within the campground and further downstream into Upper Saranac Lake. Since their installation, an estimated average of 3,000 pounds of milfoil is removed annually from the booms.

6. **Boat Retrieval:** The Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) Watershed Stewards stationed at the campground boat launch have observed a significant decline in AIS on watercraft being retrieved. Over a nine-year period, there has been an 84% reduction in AIS detected on boats leaving the launch. In 2025, nine boats retrieved at the campground launch were found to be carrying AIS, reflecting the success of ongoing prevention and management efforts.

Project Introduction

The Fish Creek Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management Project was implemented as part of the Upper Saranac Foundation's (USF) comprehensive watershed protection program, which integrates prevention, monitoring, control, and public outreach to limit the spread of invasive species. Since 2004, USF has led sustained AIS management efforts throughout the Upper Saranac watershed, and this project extended that commitment to Fish Creek and Square Ponds—high-risk, hydrologically connected waterbodies within New York State's Fish Creek Public Campground.

The project area encompasses the 287-acre Upper Fish Creek and Square Ponds, featuring approximately 4.5 miles of shoreline entirely within the campground. Managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Fish Creek Campground is the most visited NYSDEC public campground, welcoming more than 96,000 visitors annually. The facility includes 355 shoreline campsites—nearly all with direct water access—a trailered boat launch, and navigable connections to the 5,500-acre Upper Saranac Lake and surrounding Adirondack waters. Additional public and private boat launches nearby further increase watercraft traffic.

Located in the Town of Santa Clara, Franklin County, and surrounded by the Saranac Lake Wild Forest, the campground supports extensive water-based recreation, including fishing, swimming, waterskiing, tubing, and paddling. The NYSDEC describes Fish Creek Campground as "the finest and most attractive of all Adirondack campgrounds," citing its natural sandy shorelines and exceptional boating opportunities. This high level of recreational use and hydrologic connectivity significantly elevates the risk of aquatic invasive species introduction and downstream spread within both the Upper Saranac and Lake Champlain watersheds.

The project focused on the targeted control of two high-priority invasive plants—Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and variable-leaf watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)—the only AIS plants documented within the campground. Management was conducted using diver hand harvesting, a precise mechanical control method that minimizes

disturbance to native vegetation and aquatic habitat, making it particularly well suited to this sensitive, high-use environment.

Project activities were carried out during the growing season and included pre-management surveys to document AIS distribution and density, active hand-harvesting operations, and post-management surveys to evaluate effectiveness. Detailed records of infestation locations, plant densities, and quantities removed were maintained to support adaptive management and inform interim and final reporting.

This initiative advanced recommendations identified in the Upper Saranac Watershed Management Plan (Kelting 2022) and was implemented in coordination with regional partners, including the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, the Adirondack Watershed Institute, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Adirondack Park Agency.

By reducing infestation density, preventing downstream migration, and protecting native habitat, the Fish Creek AIS Management Project safeguards ecological integrity while sustaining the significant recreational and economic value of this heavily used public resource. Continued investment in AIS management remains essential to ensuring the long-term health and resilience of the Upper Saranac watershed.

Methodology

The Fish Creek Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management Project was implemented under the Upper Saranac Foundation's (USF) existing Adirondack Park Agency (APA) General AIS Harvesting Permit. USF reviewed the permit and its Volunteer Stewardship Agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to ensure full regulatory compliance and alignment with best management practices specific to Fish Creek operations.

Dive Team Hiring and Training: USF hired, trained, and scheduled an experienced AIS dive team under the supervision of a designated Dive Crew Leader and the Executive Director. All divers received training in AIS identification, survey protocols, and hand-harvesting techniques to ensure safe, effective, and environmentally responsible operations.

Pre- and Post-Management Surveys: Comprehensive aquatic plant surveys were conducted across the entire littoral zone prior to and following harvesting activities. Surveys were performed from motorboats and paddleboards using visual observations, aquascopes, rake tosses, and snorkeling. A serpentine transect pattern was followed from shoreline to depths of approximately 20 feet, guided by existing bathymetric maps to ensure complete littoral coverage.

Survey equipment included Garmin GPS units, a Lowrance HDS 7 Live sonar system with transducer, and ESRI Maps for spatial data collection and tracking. AIS infestations were mapped by circumnavigating plant bed perimeters to create assessment polygons documenting species composition and estimated percent cover. Abundance was categorized using semi-quantitative cover classes: Sparse (1–20%), Moderate (21–60%), and Dense (61–100%). Individual plants located outside defined beds were also mapped.

Lobster Buoy marking milfoil plant location

Mapped milfoil beds were clearly marked prior to harvesting using weighted lines, lobster buoys, and single floats to guide targeted removal. Survey data were used to quantify infestation acreage, detect newly established AIS, document year-to-year changes in density and distribution, and support adaptive management planning.

Harvesting Operations: AIS harvesting occurred during multiple sessions throughout the growing season. Certified divers employed systematic line and grid search patterns to locate and remove Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and variable-leaf watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*). In deeper areas, divers operated a Hookah surface-supplied air system and, when appropriate, used a diver-assisted scooter to improve efficiency. Shallow-water work was conducted using mask and snorkel techniques to minimize disturbance.

Divers worked in teams of two to four, carefully extracting entire plants—including root systems—to reduce regrowth potential. Plants were secured underwater in 5-mm mesh lobster bags, sealed, and exchanged underwater to maintain continuous operations. Harvesting was typically scheduled during morning hours and outside peak campground activity to minimize user conflicts.

Photo 1. USF diver removing AIS

A dedicated surface tender supported diver safety and operational efficiency by retrieving filled bags, intercepting fragments, marking harvest locations, and notifying boaters of active dive operations. Standard "Diver Down" flags, navigation buoys, and supplemental safety signage were deployed at all times.

Divers recorded harvesting locations using GPS and documented daily totals including biomass removed (by weight), harvested, hours worked, and specific treatment areas.

In lower-density areas, both biomass and individual plant counts were recorded, providing a more precise metric for evaluating long-term management effectiveness. All operations were overseen by the Dive Crew Leader and Project Manager to ensure safety, data accuracy, and adherence to project objectives.

Equipment Decontamination: All survey and harvesting equipment—including boats, wetsuits, buoyancy control devices (BCDs), Hookah dive systems, and mesh collection bags—was cleaned and decontaminated prior to entering Fish Creek waters, at the conclusion of each work session, and before deployment in other waterbodies.

Decontamination was conducted using 140°F, high-pressure hot water units owned by the USF and operated by the Adirondack Watershed Institute. This protocol minimized the risk of cross-contamination and prevented the spread of aquatic invasive species between waterbodies.

Photo 2. Adirondack Watershed Institute, Watershed Steward using Upper Saranac Foundation's hot water-high pressure LANDA unit to decontaminate equipment

2025 Results

Pre-Management Survey: The May 2025 pre-management survey identified two aquatic invasive plant species within the Fish Creek and Square Pond complex: Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and variable-leaf watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*).

A total of **8.29 acres** of AIS infestations were documented, including:

- 3.61 acres of dense growth (61–100% cover)
- 4.03 acres of moderate growth (21–60% cover)
- 0.65 acres of sparse growth (1–20% cover)

Scattered individual plants were also observed throughout both ponds (Appendix A).

Harvesting Operations: AIS harvesting was conducted over **18 management days**, totaling **556.5 diver work hours (Square Pond, Upper Fish Creek Pond, and the Fish Creek tributary up to the containment booms)**. Divers removed a combined **2,779 pounds** of Eurasian and variable-leaf watermilfoil (Appendix B).

Harvesting sessions were generally completed as single-day efforts to allow for seasonal monitoring of regrowth and adaptive management adjustments. Divers recorded biomass removed (by weight), hours worked, areas managed, and individual plant counts where densities allowed. All removal locations were georeferenced using GPS (Appendix C).

Within Fish Creek Pond and Square Pond, divers removed **13,003 individual plants** (831 Eurasian; 12,172 variable-leaf), totaling **1,255 pounds** of biomass (Appendix D).

Post-Management Survey: A post-management survey conducted in late September, using the same methodology as the pre-survey, documented a substantial reduction in AIS extent. Total infestation acreage declined from **8.29 acres to 3.74 acres**, representing a **55% reduction (4.55 acres)** (Appendix E).

Key findings include:

- Two of three moderate infestation zones and the single sparse zone identified pre-management contained no AIS during the post-survey.
- The two densest infestation areas were reduced from 61–100% cover to sparse levels (1–20%).
- No individual AIS plants were observed outside the remaining three managed zones.

Comparison of pre- and post-management data demonstrates the effectiveness of diver hand-harvesting and provides a strong basis for continued adaptive management.

Public Outreach and Reporting: USF conducted extensive public outreach to increase awareness of AIS impacts and reinforce prevention strategies. A Watershed Steward was stationed at the Fish Creek Campground boat launch to engage campers, promote the project, and answer questions. Educational signage was installed at the launch kiosk (Appendix F), and outreach efforts included social media posts, newsletter articles, and press releases distributed to regional media outlets.

USF newsletters were distributed three times annually to approximately 900 recipients by mail and 1,300 via email. Social media outreach reached approximately 1,500 followers.

Project data were reported to iMapInvasives in coordination with the **Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program**, utilizing crosswalks from the APIPP-maintained iMMA system to ensure standardized regional data integration.

Outreach materials acknowledged project funding support from the Lake Champlain Basin Program and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

Historical Overview: Fish Creek Campground AIS Management (2016–2025)

Pilot Phase (2016): In 2016, the Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) obtained permits from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Adirondack Park Agency to conduct a four-week pilot harvesting program at Fish Creek Campground. Implemented in collaboration with the Adirondack Watershed Institute and Aquatic Invasive Management, the pilot targeted dense infestations in high-traffic boating areas following Labor Day.

Divers removed approximately **18,938 pounds (9.5 tons)** of aquatic invasive species (AIS) from 6.13 acres of littoral habitat. The pilot confirmed survey findings, demonstrated the feasibility of diver hand-harvesting, and established the operational foundation for long-term management.

Intensive Management Phase (2017–2019): Harvesting expanded to the full littoral zones of Upper Fish Creek Pond and Square Pond, significantly reducing infestation density and extent.

2017: 15,050 lbs. removed (984 diver hours)
2018: 7,477 lbs. removed (840 diver hours)
2019: 5,806 lbs. removed (600 diver hours)

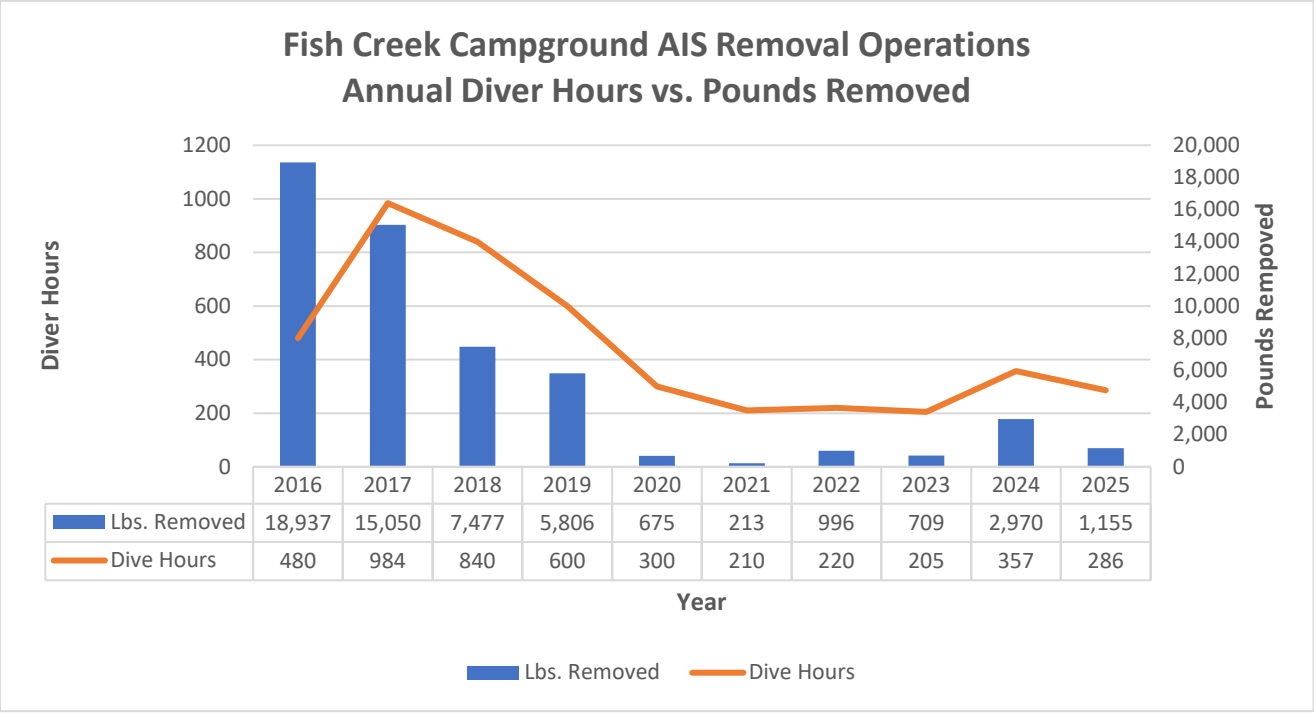
These years marked the primary reduction phase, during which established beds were systematically diminished.

Maintenance Phase (2020–2025): Beginning in 2020, management transitioned to a maintenance strategy emphasizing monitoring, targeted removal, and rapid response to regrowth and upstream inputs. Seasonal timing was adjusted to improve detection and minimize recreational conflicts.

Annual removal totals during the maintenance phase were as follows:

2020: 675 lbs. (300 diver hours)
2021: 213 lbs. (210 diver hours)
2022: 994.5 lbs. (220 diver hours)
2023: 709 lbs. (205 diver hours)
2024: 2,970 lbs. (357 diver hours)
2025: 1,255 lbs. (286 diver hours)

While early maintenance years reflected reduced biomass following intensive control, periodic increases—particularly in 2024—were associated with infestation pressures from the upstream Fish Creek tributary and localized expansion near the campground inlet. The 2025 season continued focused maintenance within managed zones and demonstrated the need for sustained annual oversight.



Ten-Year Summary of the Campground Ponds (2016–2025): Over ten years, divers have logged 4,482 hours and removed approximately 53,988 pounds (nearly 27 tons) of AIS from Fish Creek Campground (excluding upstream tributary removals).

The intensive management phase achieved substantial reductions in infestation acreage and density. The ongoing maintenance phase continues to suppress regrowth, prevent downstream spread, and respond adaptively to upstream inputs.

This decade-long effort reflects USF's sustained, science-based commitment to protecting Fish Creek, Upper Saranac Lake, and the broader watershed from aquatic invasive species.

Fish Creek Tributary (upstream of the campground bridge)

With support from a $19,000 grant from Parks & Trails New York in 2020 and 2021, the Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) expanded the Fish Creek Aquatic Invasive Species Management Project upstream of the campground bridge to the AIS containment booms—approximately 1,000 feet upstream of Upper Fish Creek Pond.

Management methods were consistent with those used elsewhere in the watershed, relying on diver hand-harvesting and standardized biomass documentation protocols. Work was conducted primarily during the off-season to minimize campground user conflicts. Variable-leaf watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) remains the predominant invasive species in this tributary reach.

The section between the campground bridge and the containment booms—approximately 2.2 acres—contains extremely high plant densities. Due to the intensity of infestation, only biomass estimates were recorded in this area. In 2025, this reach accounted for 1,523 pounds of milfoil removed (1,373 pounds variable-leaf; 150 pounds Eurasian).

Over a five-year period, USF divers have logged 1,405 work hours, removing a total of 20,265 pounds (over 10 tons) of milfoil from the Fish Creek tributary.

This upstream management effort is critical to reducing reinfestation pressure within Upper Fish Creek and Square Ponds and limiting downstream spread into Upper Saranac Lake.

AIS Containment Booms

To support the long-term goal of preventing new aquatic invasive species (AIS) establishment within Fish Creek Campground, the Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) implemented upstream containment measures to reduce the downstream transport of invasive plant fragments. Waters above the campground boat launch contain high-density infestations, creating a continual risk of reinfestation within managed areas.

In 2019, USF received funding from the Cloudsplitter Foundation to purchase and install AIS containment booms. The booms are positioned just upstream of the Fish Creek Campground boat launch and are designed to intercept fragmented invasive plants before they drift into the campground ponds and downstream into Upper Saranac Lake.

The system consists of three seasonally deployed, alternating booms extending from shoreline to just beyond the center of the channel. This configuration allows passage of non-motorized watercraft while capturing floating plant fragments on the upstream side of each boom. The booms are installed shortly after ice-out each spring and removed in late fall.

Since installation, an estimated average of 3,000 pounds of milfoil fragments have been intercepted and removed annually. Because milfoil readily propagates through fragmentation, each intercepted plant fragment represents a reduced likelihood of new downstream infestations. Fragment capture is highest during periods of elevated flow, when currents increase transport potential, and declines as seasonal water levels recede.

The containment booms provide a critical upstream control measure, significantly enhancing the effectiveness of in-campground harvesting efforts and strengthening overall watershed protection.

Invasive Species Containment Booms – Fish Creek Ponds tributary

Watershed Steward Data

As a direct result of sustained AIS management within Fish Creek Campground and the upstream tributary, the amount of invasive plant material found on boats retrieving at the campground launch has declined significantly.

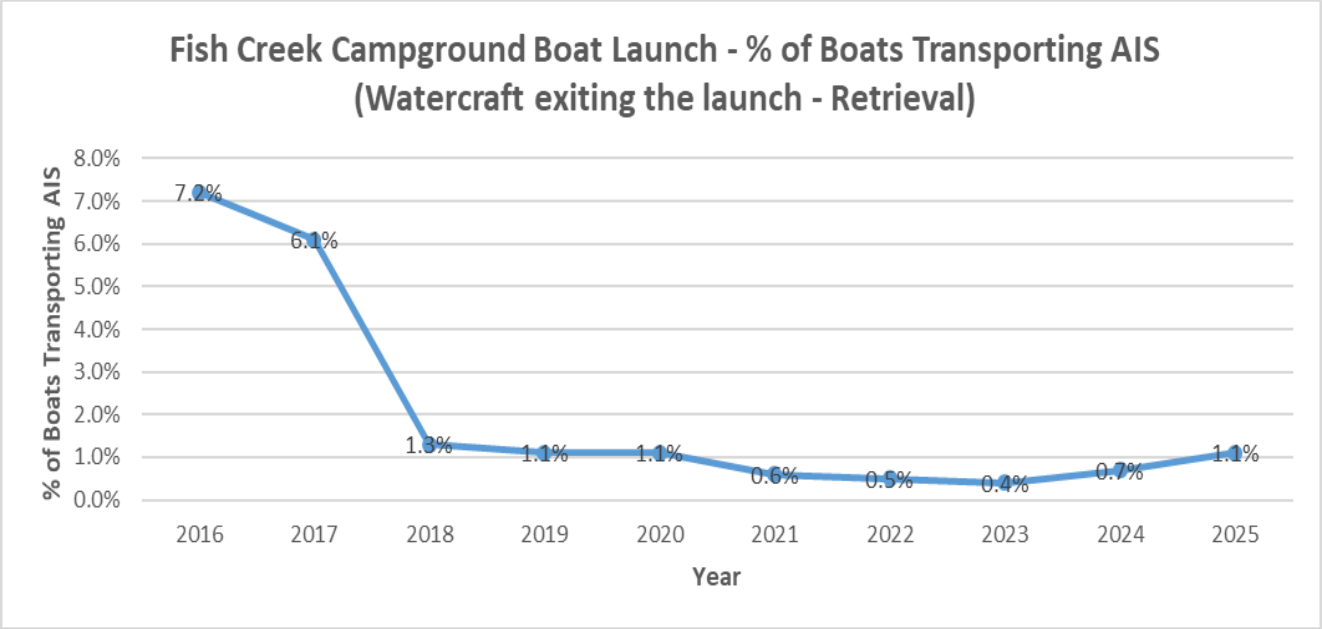
Watershed Stewards from the **Adirondack Watershed Institute** stationed at the campground boat launch inspect watercraft for aquatic invasive species. Over a nine-year period, inspection data document an **84% reduction** in AIS detected on boats leaving the launch.

In 2025, nine boats retrieved at the campground launch were found to be carrying AIS—an outcome that reflects the continued success of coordinated prevention, containment, and harvesting efforts. This measurable decline demonstrates reduced infestation pressure within the management area and a decreased likelihood of AIS being transported to uninfested regional waterbodies.

AWI - Adirondack Watershed Steward at Fish Creek Campground Boat Launch

Occurrence of AIS on watercraft being retrieved from Fish Creek Campground Boat launch

Fish Creek Campground Boat Launch (Watercraft exiting the launch - Retrieval)										
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Inspections Performed	403	914	822	1104	611	786	785	570	453	827
Boats Transporting AIS	29	56	11	12	7	5	4	2	3	9
% Boats Transporting AIS	7.2%	6.1%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.7%	1.1%



AWI - Adirondack Watershed Steward at Fish Creek Campground Boat Launch

Lake Bottom Mapping

To get a better understanding of the characteristics of the bottom of Fish Creek and Square Ponds, the Upper Saranac Foundation utilized BioBase, an aquatic habitat sonar mapping technology. Data was compiled into bathymetric, aquatic vegetation and bottom hardness maps. This information assisted our crews to understand AIS location probability of AIS growth. Additionally, it developed a baseline for monitoring changes over time, measuring the waterbodies response to the FCAISMP (Appendix G).

Conclusion

The 2025 Fish Creek Aquatic Invasive Species Management Project demonstrates the continued effectiveness of sustained, science-based aquatic invasive species (AIS) control within one of the Adirondack region's most heavily used public waterbodies.

2025 pre-management surveys documented 8.29 acres of Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and variable-leaf watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) across Fish Creek and Square Ponds. Through 18 management days and 556.5 diver work hours, the Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) removed 2,779 pounds of invasive biomass and reduced infestation acreage by 55%, from 8.29 acres to 3.74 acres.

Post-management surveys confirmed the elimination of multiple moderate and sparse infestation zones and significant density reductions within formerly dense beds.

Upstream tributary management and the continued use of AIS containment booms have further strengthened project outcomes by reducing infestation pressure and limiting downstream transport into Upper Saranac Lake.

Watershed Steward inspection data collected by the Adirondack Watershed Institute show an 84% reduction in AIS detected on watercraft leaving the campground launch over nine years, with only nine boats found carrying AIS in 2025. This measurable decline reflects the combined impact of harvesting, containment, prevention, and public education efforts.

However, approximately 13 acres of dense milfoil growth directly upstream of the containment booms continues to expand each year, serving as a significant source of AIS fragments that propagate downstream into the campground. Unlike contained waterbodies where eradication or reduced maintenance is achievable, the recurring influx of unmanaged upstream AIS necessitates rigorous and ongoing management at Fish Creek Campground. As long as upstream infestations persist, Fish Creek Campground will require higher maintenance efforts compared to other waterbodies managed by the Upper Saranac Foundation (USF).

The ten-year record of management (2016–2025) documents nearly 27 tons of AIS removed from the campground ponds and more than 10 tons removed from the tributary—an extraordinary long-term investment in watershed protection.

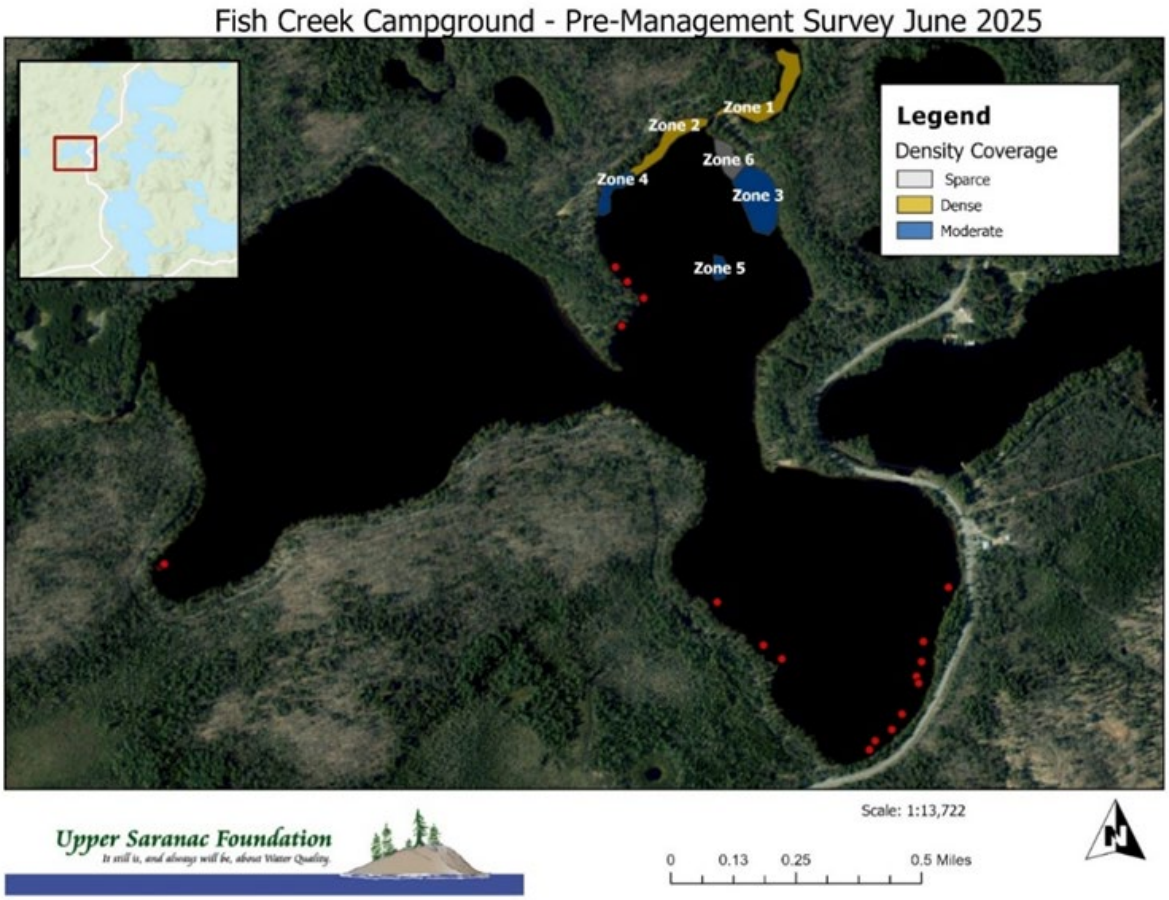
In 2025, the project was supported in part by funding from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and the Upper Saranac Foundation has secured grant assistance periodically over the life of the program. However, the absence of consistent, reliable funding presents an ongoing challenge. Without sustained financial support, maintaining the level of effort required to counter continual upstream infestation pressure will become increasingly difficult. Long-term success at Fish Creek will depend not only on proven management strategies, but also on establishing stable funding partnerships that ensure this critical work can continue year after year.

In Memory of Steve Dvorak

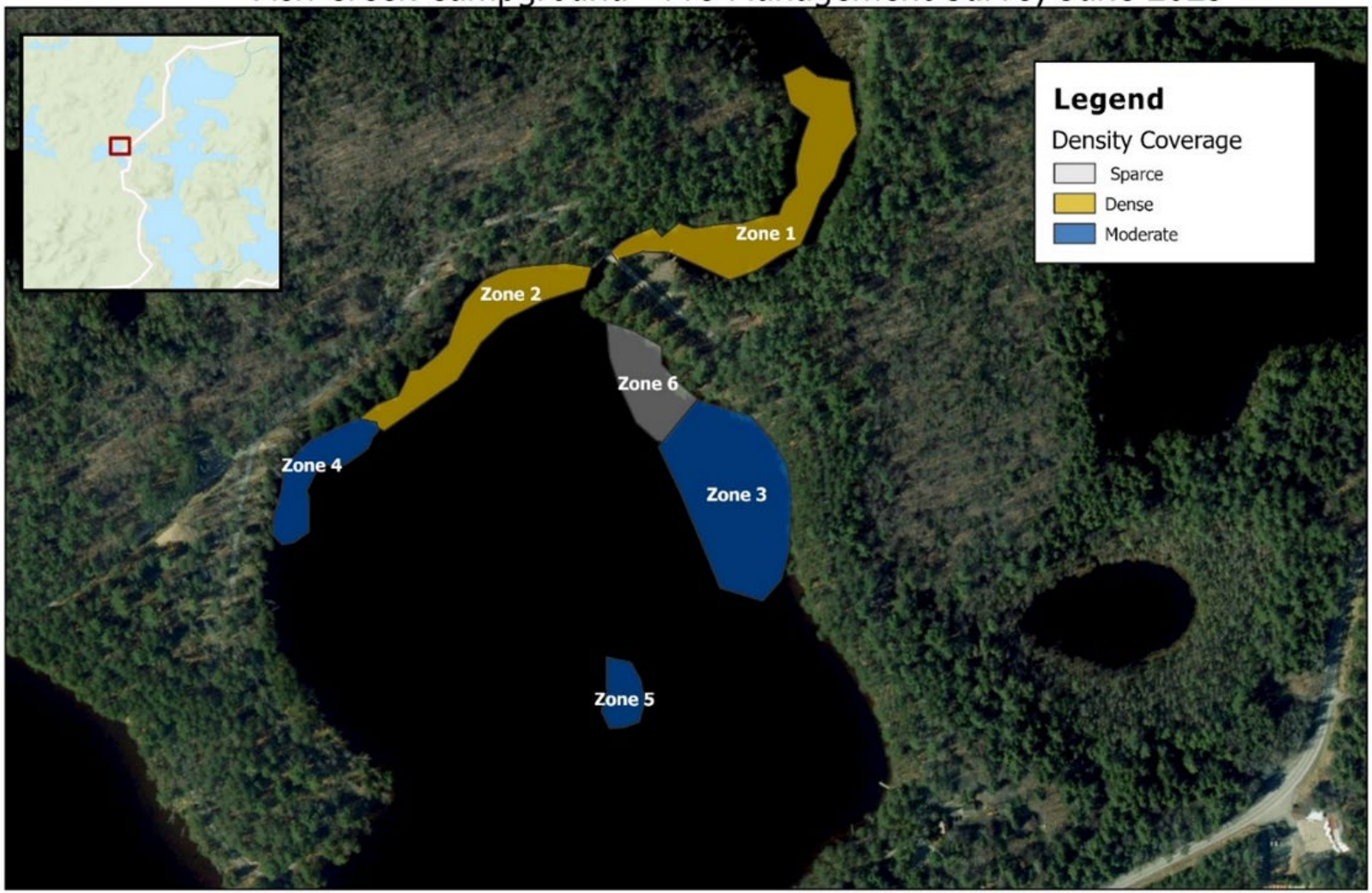
APPENDIX A – PRE-MANAGEMENT SURVEY

Fish Creek Pre-Management Survey 2025		
Density Coverage	Color	Percent Coverage
Sparse	Translucent	1-20%
Moderate	Blue	21-60%
Dense	Gold	61-100%
Individual Plants	Red - dots	< 1%

2025 Pre-Management Survey Zones			
Zone	Density	Sq. Ft	Acres
1	Dense	94,579	3.61
2	Dense	62,643	
3	Moderate	120,406	4.03
4	Moderate	15,836	
5	Moderate	39,490	
6	Sparse	28,124	0.65
Total		**361,078**	**8.29**



Fish Creek Campground - Pre-Management Survey June 2025



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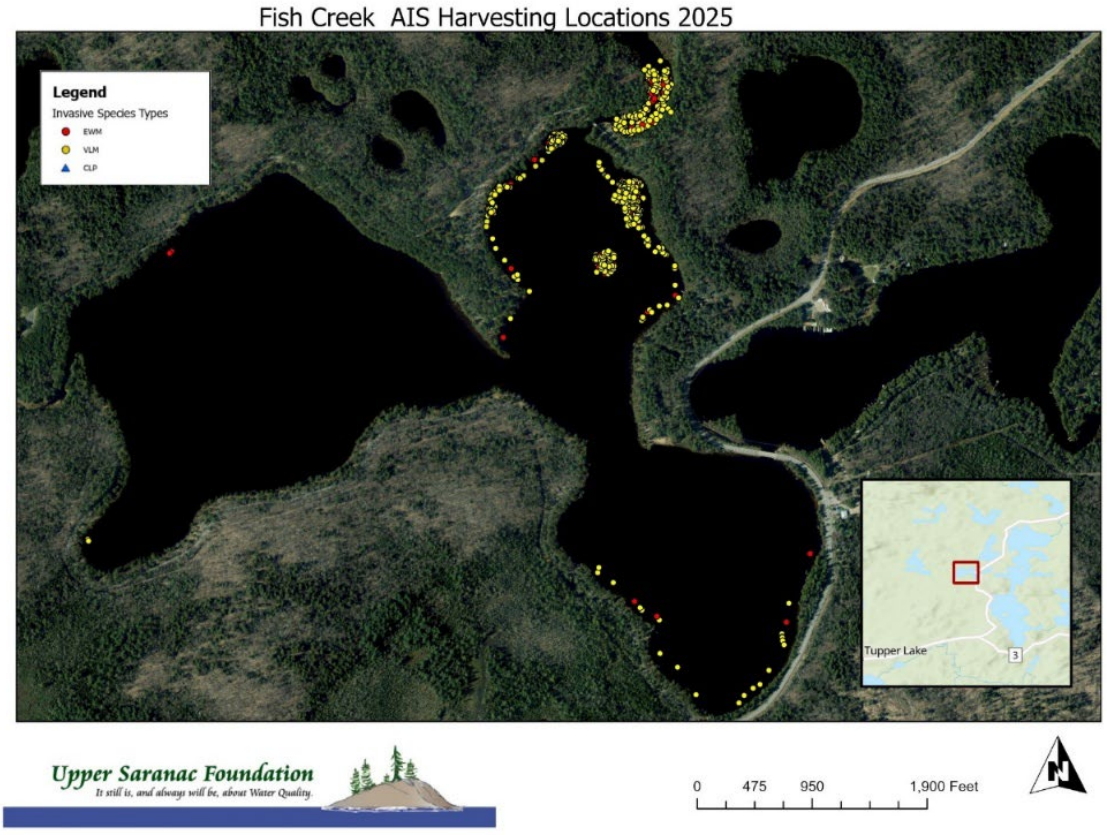
Scale: 1:5,621

0 0.05 0.1 0.2 Miles

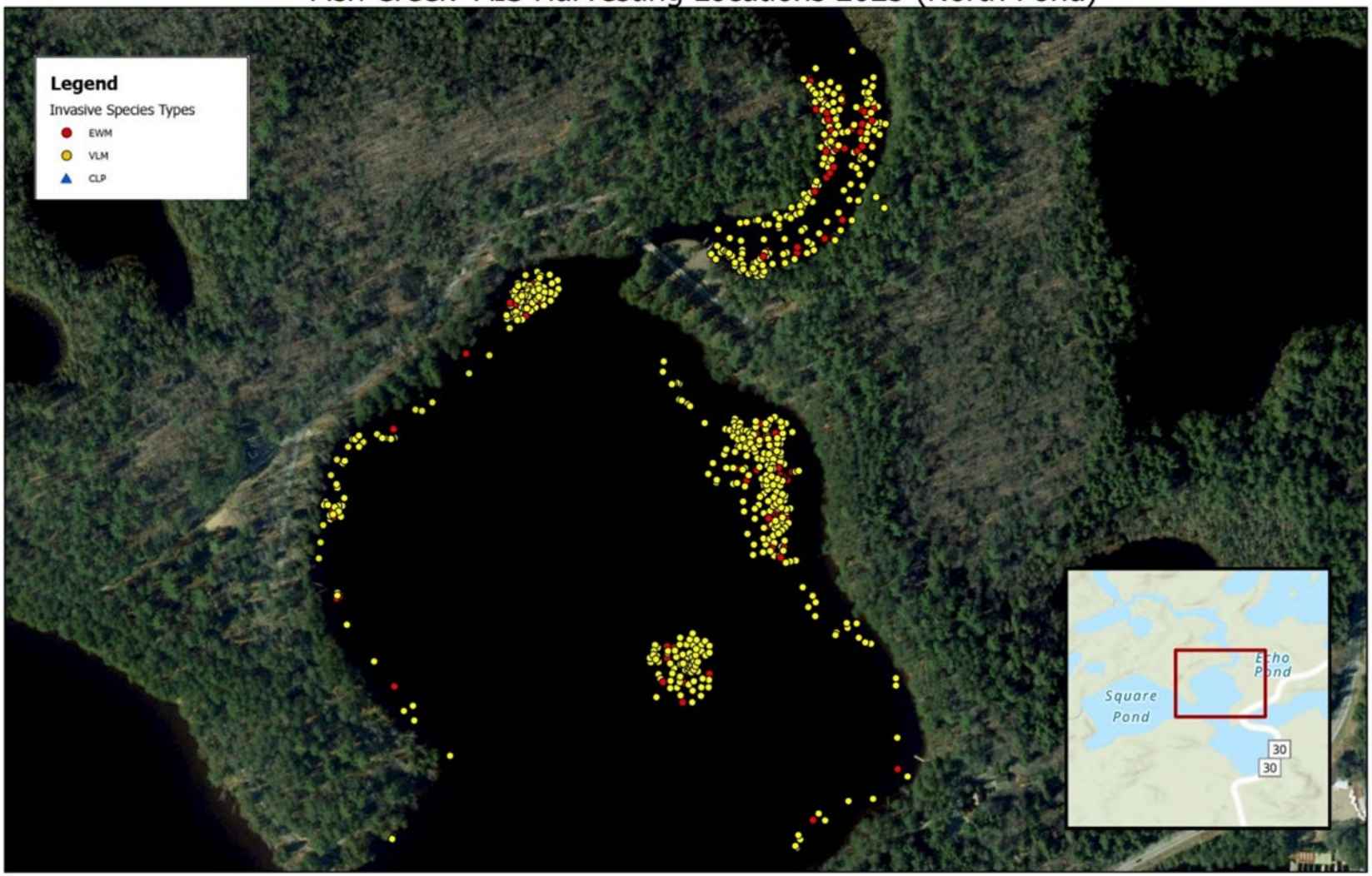
APPENDIX B – AQUATIC INVASIVE DIVERS EFFORTS AND RESULTS:

Fish Creek Campground 2025 AIS Removal		
Date	**Diver Hrs.**	**Lbs. Removed**
27-May	28	225
28-May	55	375
9-Jun	50	103
10-Jun	50	325
25-Jun	50	100
26-Jun	50	413
2-Jul	20	25
3-Jul	20	175
10-Jul	40	225
24-Jul	36	75
21-Aug	6	23
25-Aug	24	100
26-Aug	21	150
27-Aug	19.5	40
1-Sep	12	20
9-Sep	36	250
10-Sep	24	55
18-Sep	15	100
Total	556.5	2,779

APPENDIX C – AIS HARVESTING LOCATION MAPS:



Fish Creek AIS Harvesting Locations 2025 (North Pond)



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0 200 400 800 Feet

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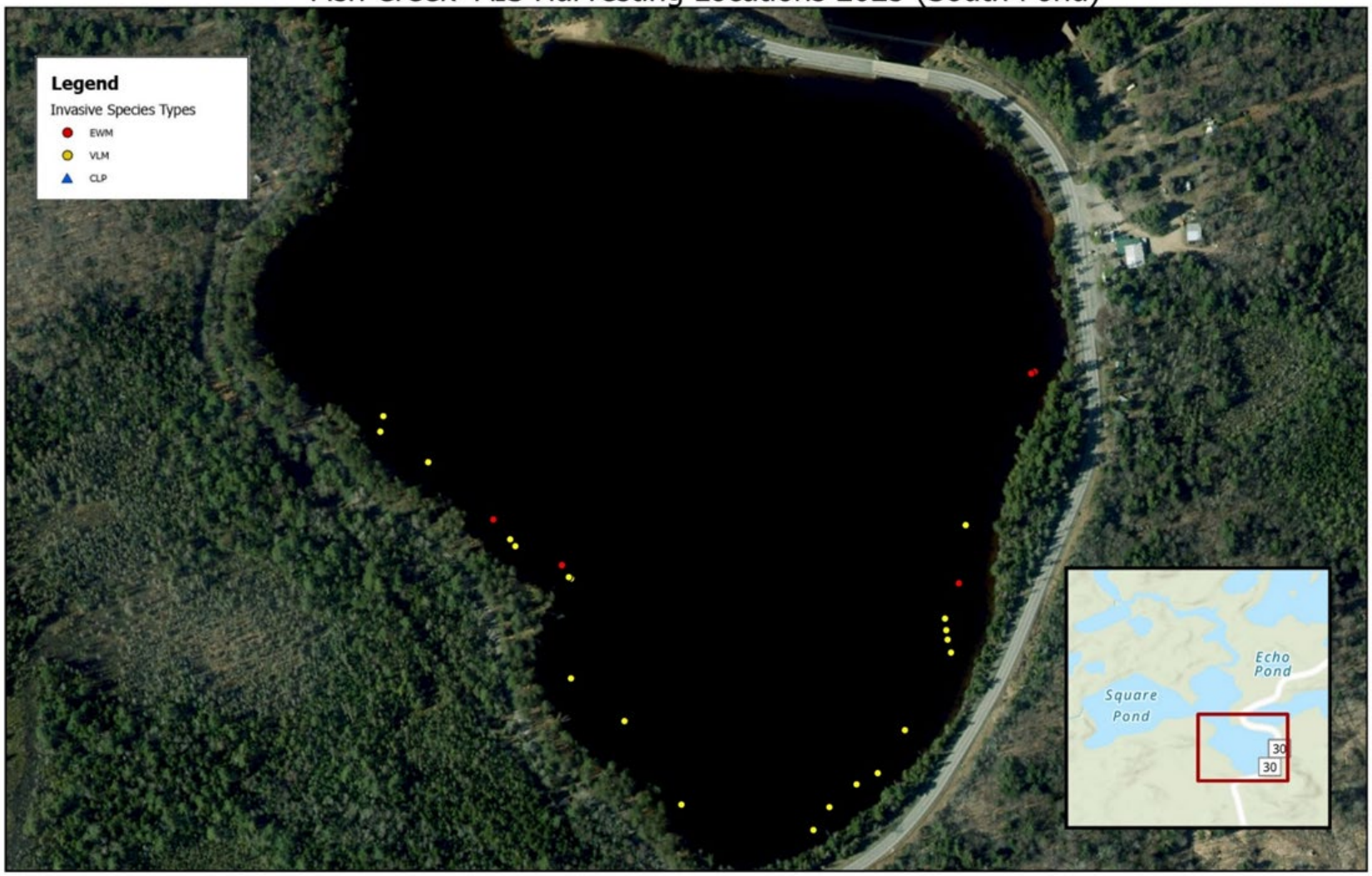
Fish Creek AIS Harvesting Locations 2025 (South Pond)



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0 200 400 800 Feet

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Fish Creek Campground AIS Harvesting Locations 2025 (Square Pond)

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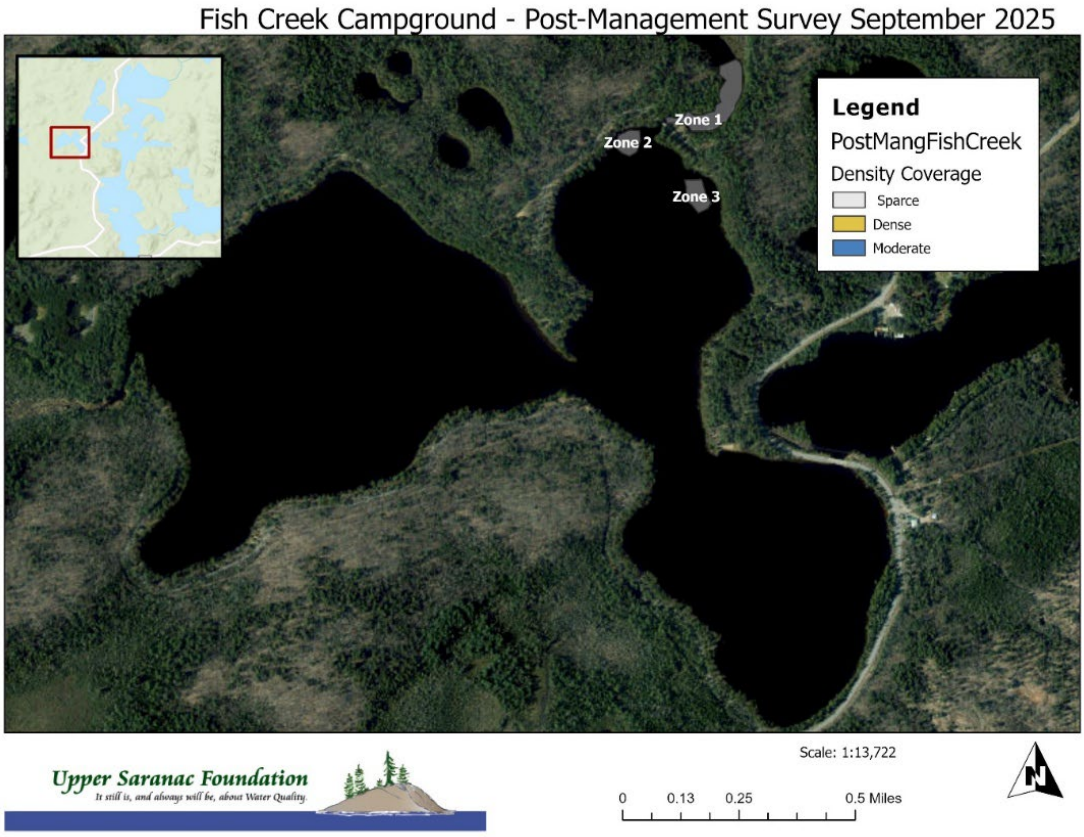
APPENDIX D – AIS HARVEST BY ZONES:

Fish Creek Campground - AIS Plant Count / Pounds Harvested				
Site Location	**Site Location**	**Eurasian**	**Variable**	**Total**
Square Pond	1	2	3	5
North Upper Fish Creek Pond	2	823	12,090	12,913
South Upper Fish Creek Pond	3	6	79	85
Totals Number of Plants Harvested		**831 Plants**	**12,172 Plants**	**13,003 Plants**
AIS Harvested from the Ponds in Pounds		**100 Lbs.**	**1,155 Lbs.**	**1,255 Lbs.**
Fish Creek	4	**Eurasian**	**Variable**	
AIS Harvested for the Creek in Pounds		**150 lbs.**	**1,373 Lbs.**	**1,523 Lbs**
Total AIS Harvested in Pounds		**250 Lbs.**	**2,528 lbs.**	**2,779 Lbs.**

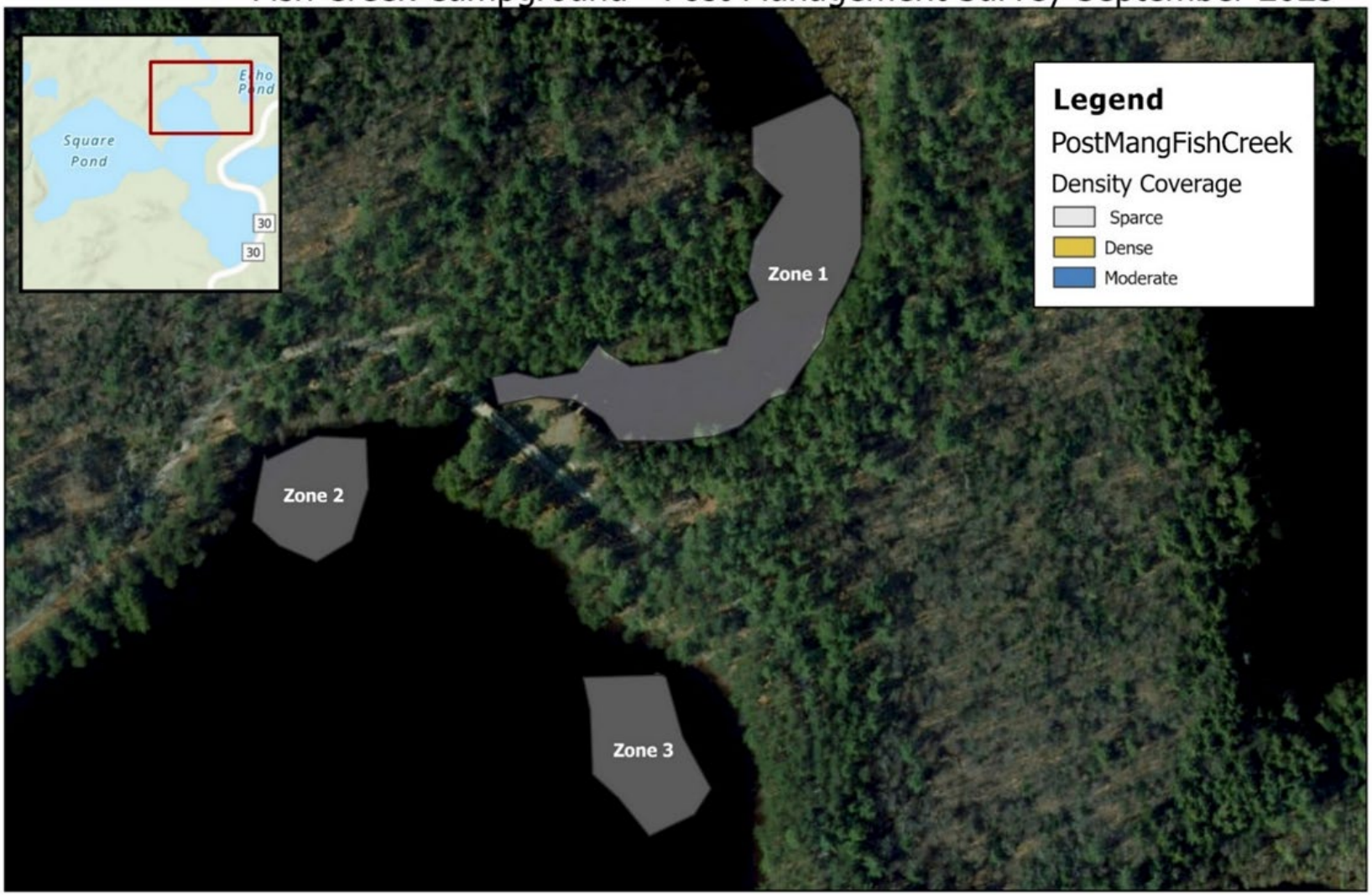
APPENDIX E – POST-MANAGEMENT SURVEY

Fish Creek Pre-Management Survey 2025		
Density Coverage	Color	Percent Coverage
Sparse	Translucent	1-20%
Moderate	Blue	21-60%
Dense	Gold	61-100%
Individual Plants	Red - dots	< 1%

2025 Post-Management Survey Zones			
Zone	Density	Sq. Ft	Acres
1	Sparse	94,579	3.74
2	Sparse	30,948	
3	Sparse	37,482	
4	No AIS Found	0	0.00
5	No AIS Found	0	0.00
6	No AIS Found	0	0.00
Total		**163,009**	**3.74**



Fish Creek Campground - Post-Management Survey September 2025



Upper Saranac Foundation
It still is, and always will be, about Water Quality.

Scale: 1:3,597

0 0.03 0.07 0.13 Miles

N

APPENDIX F – OUTREACH SIGNAGE

Aquatic Invasive Species Control Site

The Upper Saranac Foundation is working to restore native ecosystems by removing aquatic invaders — you can help us.

Before entering and when leaving waterbodies:

✓ **CLEAN** ✓ **DRAIN** ✓ **DRY**

Invasive species are plants and animals introduced from other places that cause harm. They can negatively impact boating, fishing, and swimming.

Divers are hand harvesting invasive milfoil plants!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR DIVER SAFETY

PLEASE STAY AT LEAST 300 FEET AWAY

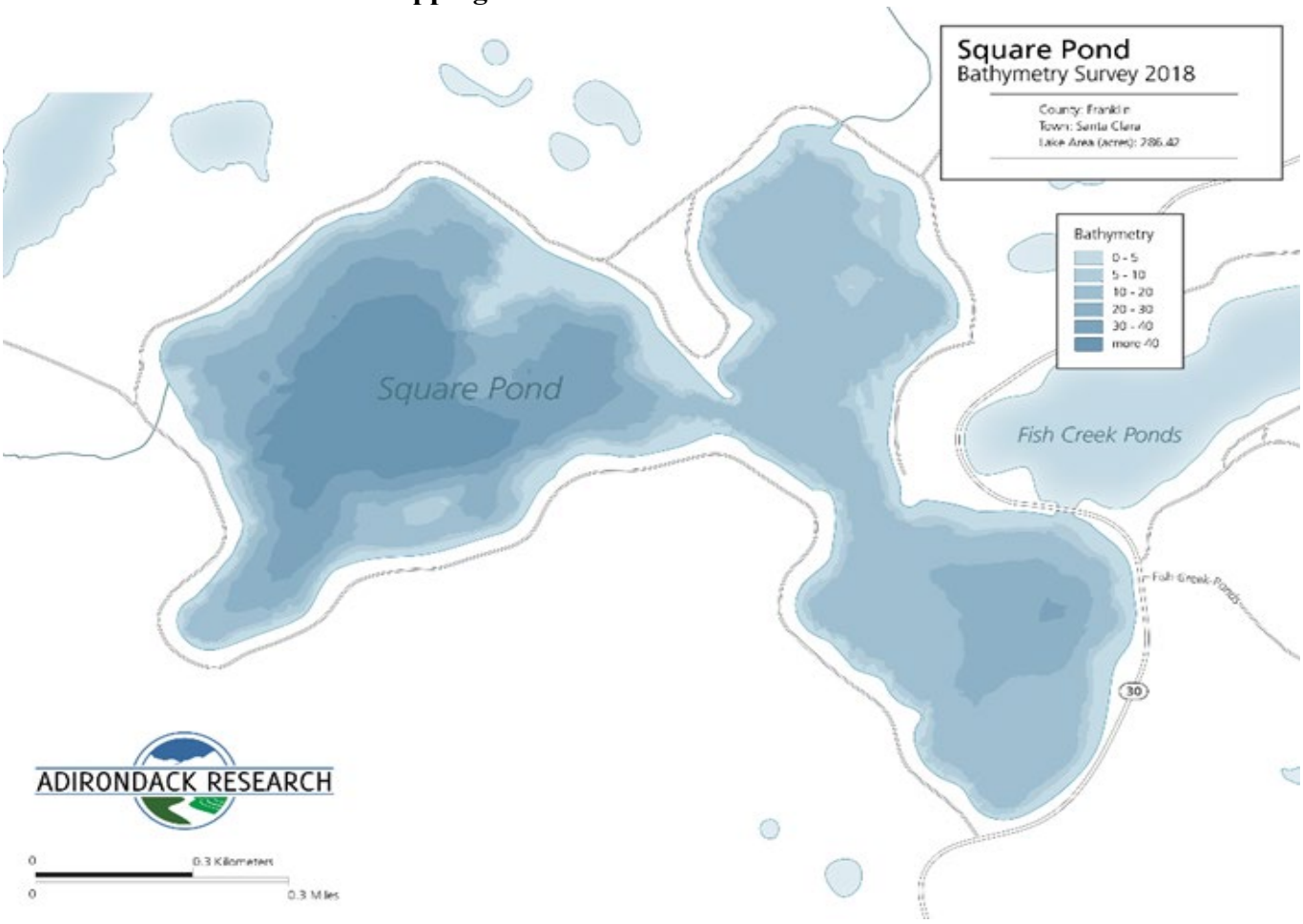
NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Department of Environmental Conservation

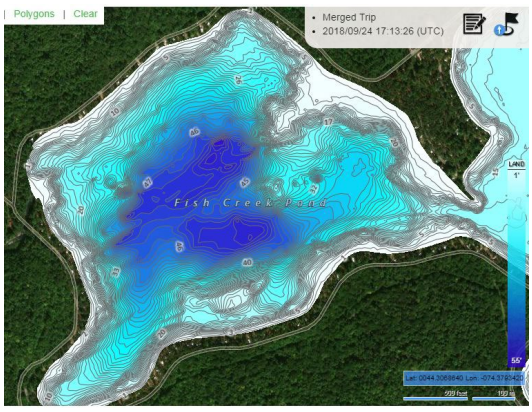
Lake Champlain Basin Program

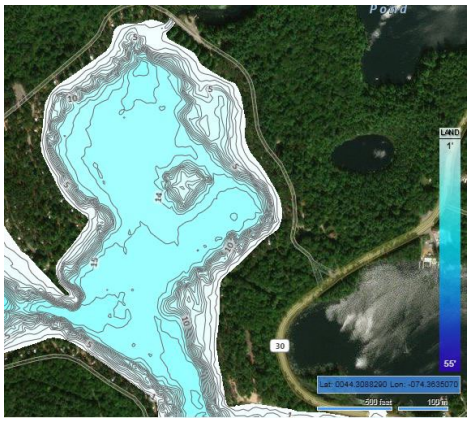
NE IW PCC

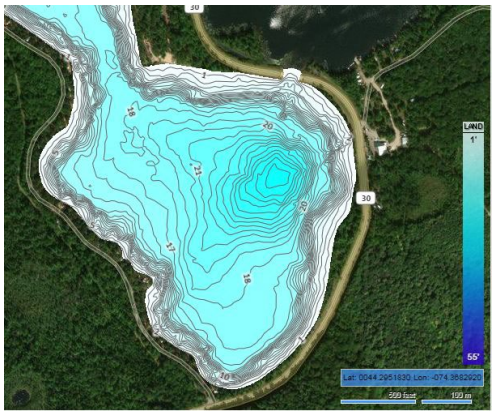
Funded with support from the Upper Saranac Foundation and the Lake Champlain Basin Program.
Learn more: usfoundation.net.

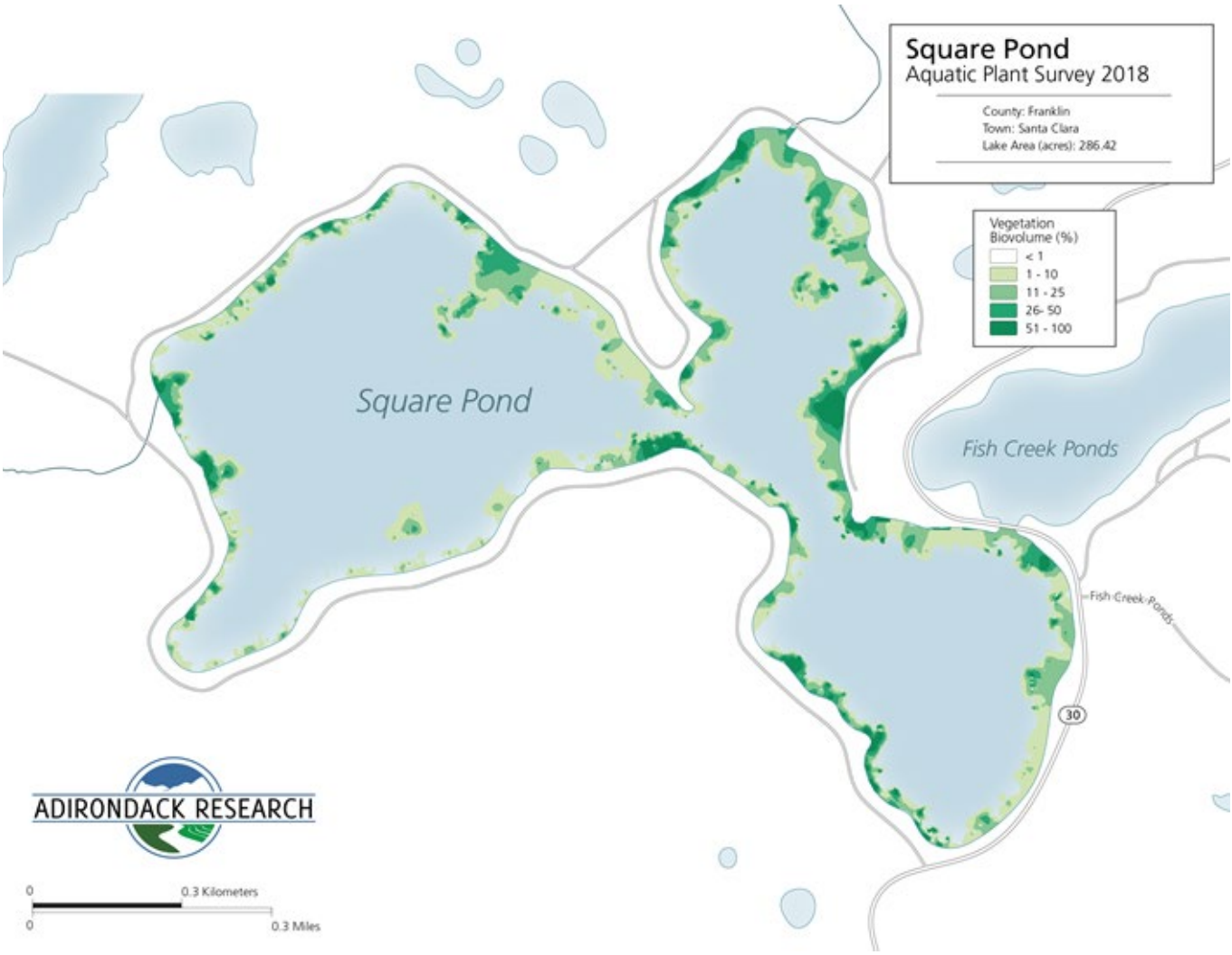
APENDIX G: Lake Bottom Mapping

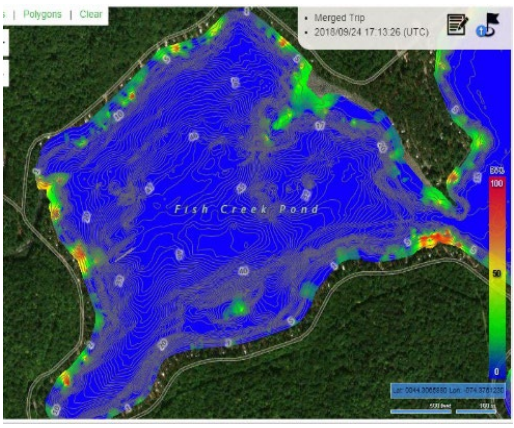


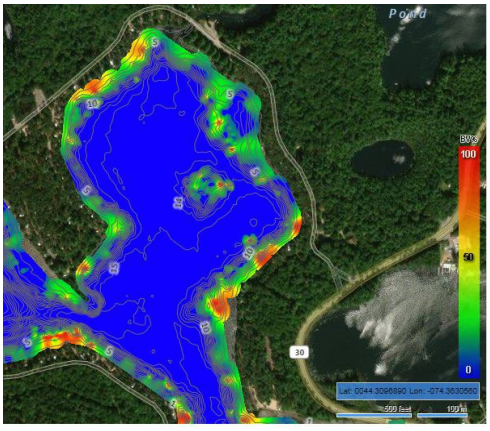


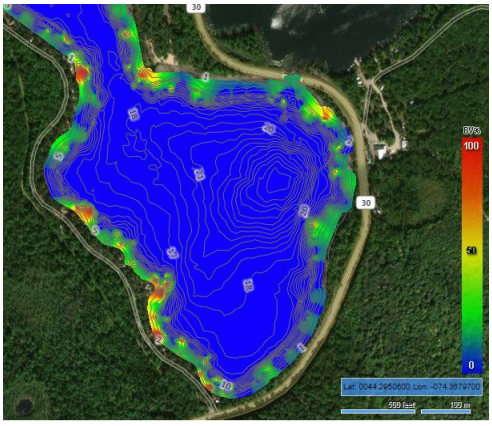


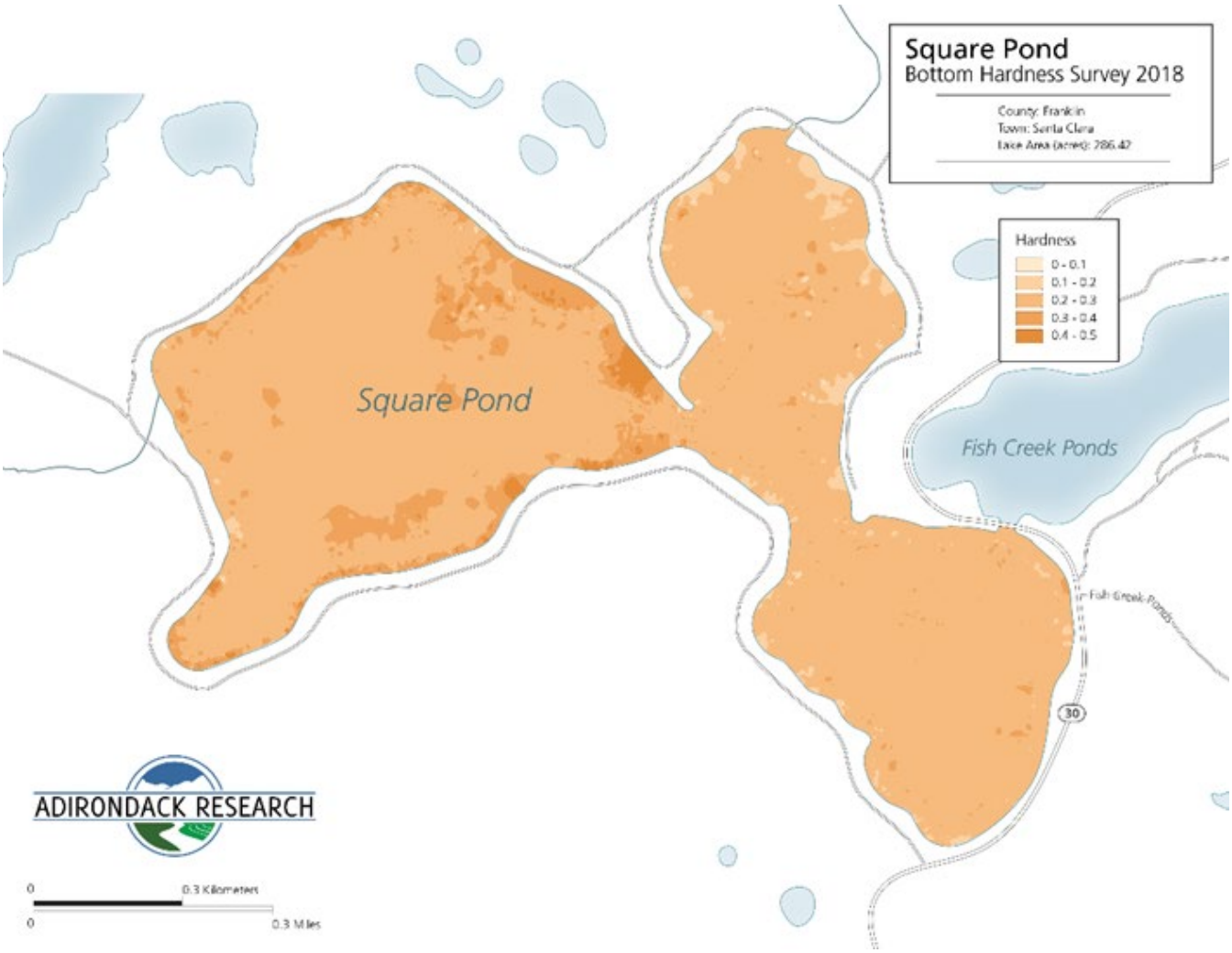



Square Pond
Aquatic Plant Survey 2018
County: Franklin
Town: Santa Clara
Lake Area (acres): 286.42
Vegetation Biovolume (%)
< 1
1 - 10
11 - 25
26- 50
51 - 100
Square Pond
Fish Creek Ponds
Fish Creek Ponds
30
ADIRONDACK RESEARCH
0
0.3 Kilometers
0
0.3 Miles

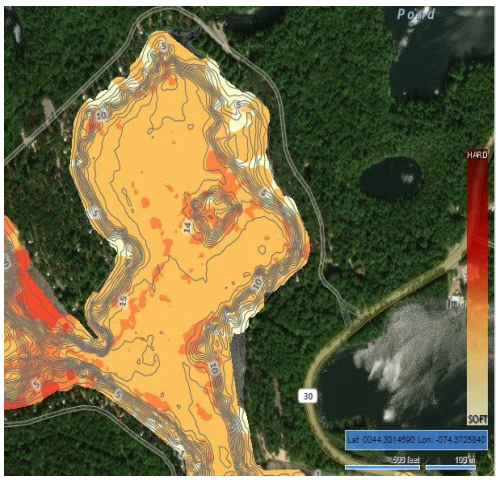

Merged Trip
2018/09/24 17:13:26 (UTC)
Fish Creek Pond
BVs
100
50
0

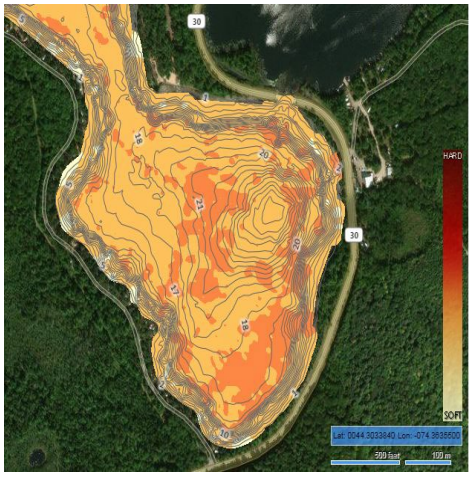

BVs
100
50
0
30


30
BVs
100
50
0


Square Pond
Bottom Hardness Survey 2018
County: Franklin
Town: Santa Clara
Lake Area (acres): 786.42
Hardness
0 - 0.1
0.1 - 0.2
0.2 - 0.3
0.3 - 0.4
0.4 - 0.5
Square Pond
Fish Creek Ponds
Fish Creek Ponds
30
ADIRONDACK RESEARCH
0
0.3 Kilometers
0
0.3 Miles

Polygons
Clear
Merged Trip
2018/09/24 17:13:26 (UTC)
HARD
SOFT


Pond
30
HARD
SOFT


30
30
HARD
SOFT