

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
2016 Field Survey

Muskellunge Creek
SLELO-PRISM Early Detection Surveillance
July 19th, 2016

Report prepared by Ashley Gingeleski and Ben Hansknecht on August 25th, 2016

Introduction and Background

The SLELO Early Detection team visited Dexter Marsh Wildlife Management Area to survey Muskellunge Creek for the presence of water hyacinth. In August 2015, DEC staff from the Region 6 office detected water hyacinth in Muskellunge Creek at N 43.97728, W -76.05243. The infestation of water hyacinth was reported to be eradicated after detection in 2015. The 2016 survey was a follow-up to these efforts, to ensure the plant is not currently present in the area.

Water hyacinth is an invasive aquatic plant that can aggressively form dense mats in wetland habitats, deplete oxygen levels, and reduce light availability to native plants and invertebrates below the water. It has waxy, oval to elliptical leaves that curve inward (up to 6 inches wide), spongy petioles, and blue-purple flowers with six petals (**Figures 1 – 3**).



Figures 1 – 3. (Left to right) Water hyacinth plant; water hyacinth spongy petioles and leaves; water hyacinth flower. Photo Credits: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Survey Methods

The SLELO Early Detection team launched a canoe from the Muskellunge Creek public access site located on Route 180. The creek was visually surveyed to the east of the Route 180 bridge, as well as west of the Route 180 bridge until the end of the creek at Muskellunge Bay.

Observations

Water hyacinth was not detected in the Muskellunge Creek area at Dexter WMA.