

Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention

In Eastern Lake Ontario

2018 Annual Report

91

Number of aquatic
invasive species
interceptions made
by Boat Launch
Stewards in 2018 re-
ducing the spread
to, and from, North
American Waters.
Three year total =
256 interceptions



Our 2018 Watercraft Inspection Stewardship Program Team (WISP)

In 2018, four aquatic invasive species Stewardship Specialists served as Boat Launch Stewards for a 13 week period, June through August and worked Wednesdays through Sundays to maximize boater engagement.

Stewards were placed at four strategic locations along

Eastern Lake Ontario to include: Oswego Harbor, Henderson Harbor, Sackets Harbor and at Cape Vincent. Voluntary watercraft inspections were conducted at each boat launch.

Photo—from left: Casey Harkleroad, Alex Linerode, Evan Jones and Ben McCrobie.

“Four strategic boat launch sites along Eastern Lake Ontario were selected, Oswego Harbor, Henderson Harbor, Sackets Harbor and Cape Vincent.”

2018 Statistics

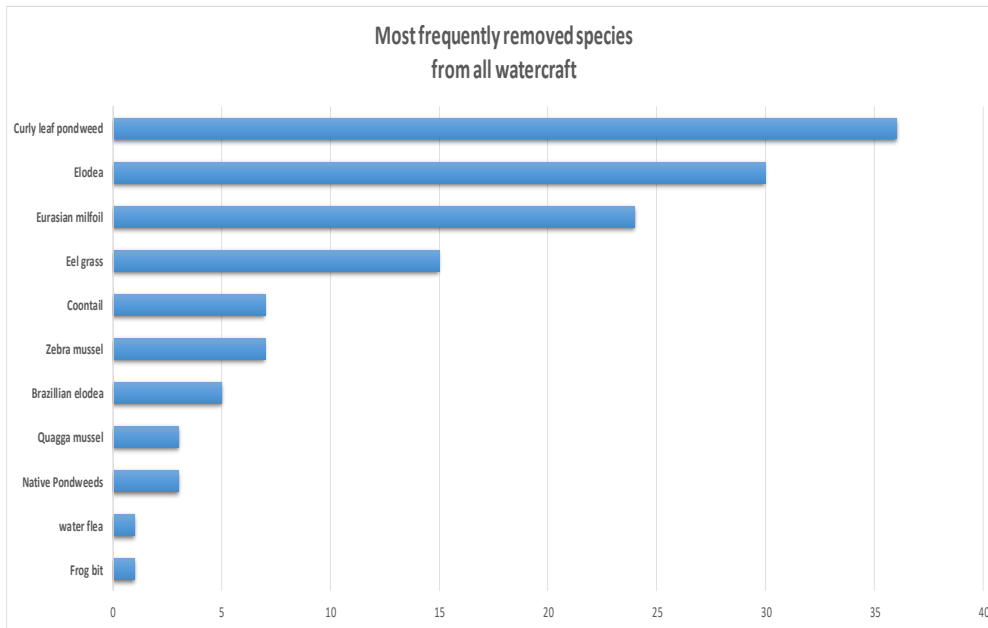
- ◇ 948 boaters engaged (3 year total = 2,605).
- ◇ Engaged boaters from 15 states and 2 provinces.
- ◇ Aquatic invasive species (AIS) interceptions = 91 in 2018 (3-year total 256).
- ◇ 10% of all watercraft are contaminated with aquatic invasive species (based on 3-year average).
- ◇ 91% of all participants received AIS “Clean-Drain-Dry” literature.
- ◇ Top 3 travel routes identified: Route 3, Route 81, Route 12-E.
- ◇ Furthest areas recently boated: Canada, Florida, Texas and Alaska.

10% of all watercraft entering or leaving the region are contaminated with aquatic invasive species.



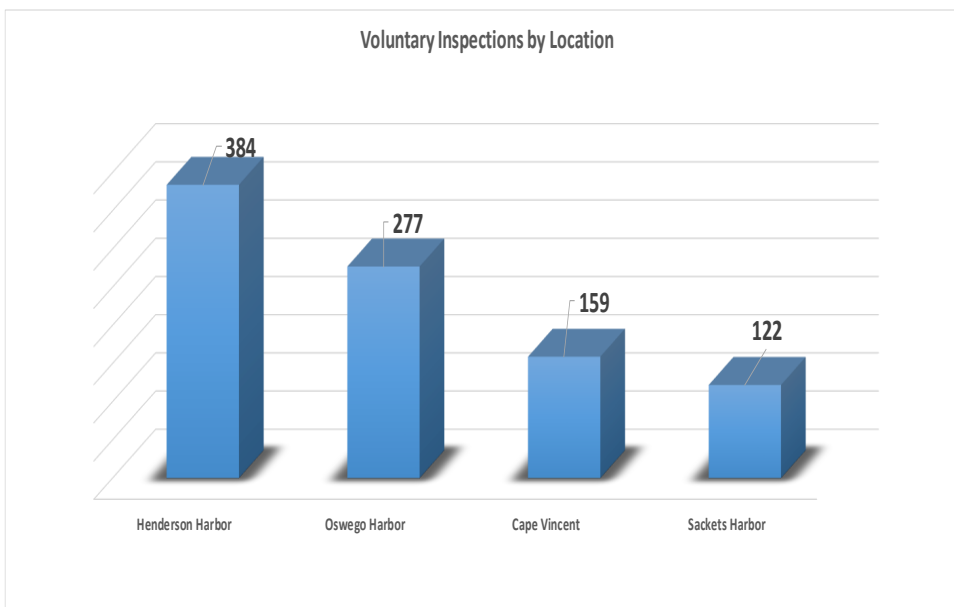
Photo Left: Ben McCrobie engaging a boater at Henderson Harbor.

Frequently Removed Species



The most frequently removed species from watercraft this season include (in descending order of frequency); curly leaf pondweed, elodea, Eurasian milfoil, Eel grass, coontail, zebra mussel, Brazilian elodea, quagga mussel, native pondweeds, water flea, frog bit.

Inspections by Location



In 2018, boater engagement was most active at Henderson Harbor followed by Oswego Harbor, Cape Vincent and Sackets Harbor.

Collecting Information

The field data forms that our stewards populate during their conversations with boaters have 14 questions designed not only to learn about boater habits, but to collect data that can be used to evaluate invasive species prevention efforts.

Questions include:

- ◇ Watercraft type
- ◇ Group size
- ◇ State of Registration
- ◇ Launching/retrieving
- ◇ Time of inspection
- ◇ Prior contact with steward
- ◇ Does the visitor take spread prevention steps?
- ◇ Aquatic organisms found
- ◇ Species identification
- ◇ Educational materials offered
- ◇ Waterbodies visited in last two weeks
- ◇ Waterbody the visitor will go to next
- ◇ Travel route to be taken.
- ◇ Would visitor use a decontamination station.

Pertinent information is then extracted and used to make determinations as to the spread of aquatic invasive species in the decision making process.

For More Information on the Eastern Lake Ontario Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Program.

The SLELO PRISM Program is part of a much larger program throughout New York State. Other partners are also promoting AIS spread prevention via boat launch stewards. As a whole these combined efforts should significantly slow the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout New York State waters.

In the SLELO PRISM Region this effort is implemented as a partnership between the partners of the PRISM and The Nature Conservancy CWNY. Funded in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Invasive Species Spread Prevention Grants Program through appropriations from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund.

Report prepared by:

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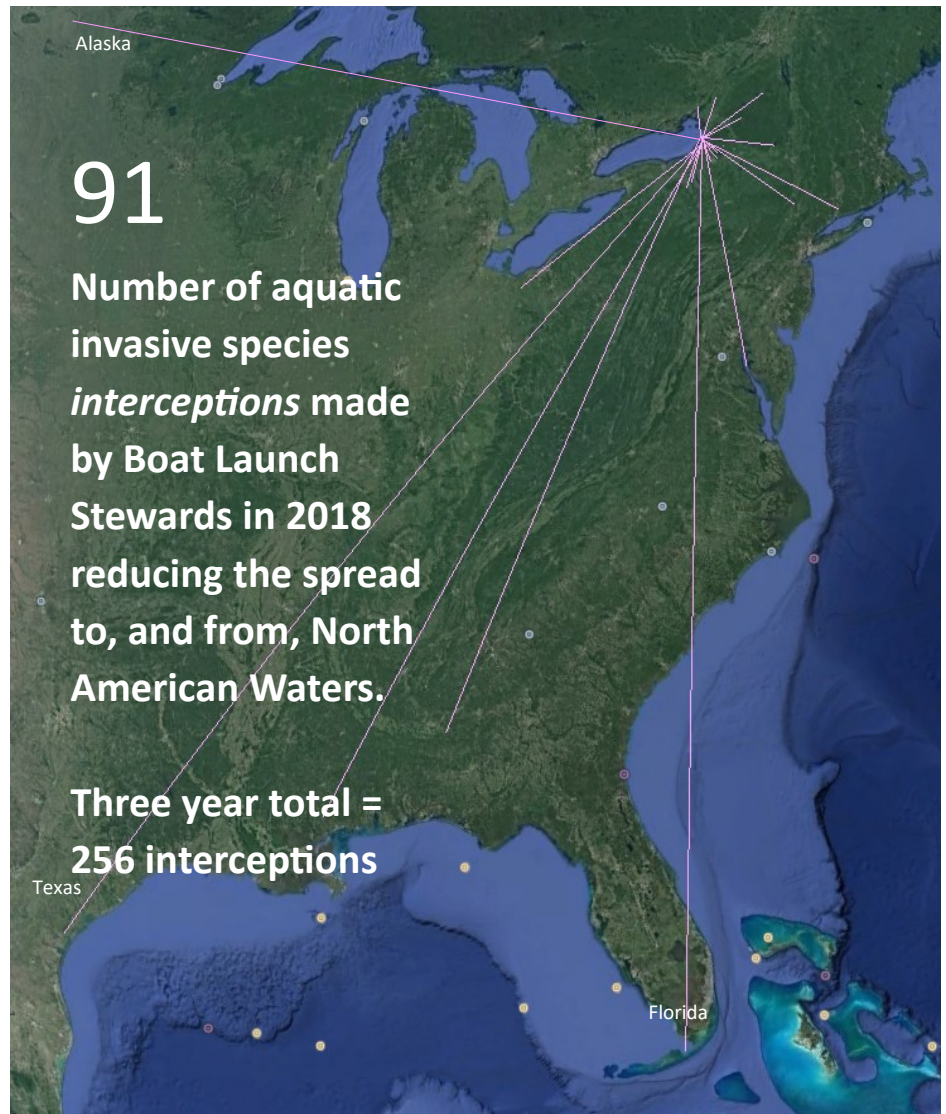
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Acknowledgements:

SLELO PRISM Partners
 NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation
 The Nature Conservancy CWNY



Spread Potential on a Larger Scale



Spread Potential on a Larger Scale

Lake Ontario has always been a destination for fishing enthusiasts as well as recreational boating. Professional anglers participate in competitions from all over the east coast. The Salmon River in Pulaski attracts anglers on a global scale. Recreational travel-boating is also a significant activity with boaters traveling the Great Lakes, Erie Canal, Hudson River and even the so called “loop” which takes vessels from the Great Lakes down through the Mississippi River around the Florida peninsula up the Atlantic and back into the Great Lakes.

During the past three years (2016-2018) when asked what waterbody the boater visited last or where they intend to go to next revealed the following locations/areas:

- | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| Canada | Florida Keys | Alabama | Louisiana | Finger Lakes |
| Adirondacks | Pennsylvania | New Jersey | Connecticut | Texas |
| New Hampshire | Hudson River | Ohio River | Alaska | Massachusetts |
| Minnesota | Mississippi | Virginia | N. Carolina | Vermont |
| New York | | | | |