

SLELO PRISM Special Project 2019

Final Report

Project Title: AIS Citizen Science and Volunteer Surveillance Network Program

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Project Narrative



Frozen tench used for RRCA Riverkeeper Training. Photo credit RRCA.

Save The River successfully completed the 2019 SLELO PRISM Special Project; *AIS Citizen Science and Volunteer Surveillance Network Program*. The project incorporated early detection searches for SLELO PRISM prevention species, provided unique education and outreach programming and volunteer engagement strategies, and expanded the volunteer surveillance network for aquatic invasive species including tench. The project focused on preventing the introduction and spread of priority watch-list species (didymo, hydrilla, Asian carp, tench, New Zealand mud-snail, water soldier, rusty crayfish, water hyacinth, fanwort and water lettuce) and slowing the establishment of target management species (water chestnut, Eurasian watermilfoil, *Phragmites*, yellow flag iris and Asian jumping worm.) These target management and prevention species were the focus of project deliverables including Riverkeeper volunteer and citizen science training workshops, targeted angler outreach events, youth angler programs, recruitment for the tench volunteer surveillance network, and accompanying educational fact sheets and displays.

The following objectives were accomplished in two phases:

Phase 1 Tasks - to be accomplished (by Save The River)

1. Host angler education trainings and request participation in a volunteer surveillance network.
 - Watertown Sportsmen Club (Watertown, NY) held on 7/8/2019 for 12 participants
2. Host 2 Riverkeeper Volunteer trainings and recruit participants for VSN.
 - Minna Anthony Common Nature Center (Fineview, NY), held on 7/10/2019 for 13 participants



19 people attended the RRCA Riverkeeper Training in Cornwall, ON. Photo credit: RRCA.

- Raisin Region Conservation Authority (Cornwall, ON Canada), held on 7/17/2019 for 19 participants

3. Develop invasive species informational display for anglers.

- Catch and Release Video developed for angler workshops and displays incorporating invasive species education and volunteer surveillance network recruitment for tench
- Tench outreach poster developed for displays
- Tabletop tench specimen display for angler education workshops
- 500 AIS Keep a lookout aquatic animal identification fact sheets were developed in coordination with the SLELO PRISM educator



Tench specimen caught by SRMT Environmental Division for education display. Photo credit: SRMT.

Phase 2 tasks - to be accomplished (by Save The River)

1. Host 2 youth fishing days (Rockport and Thousand Islands) and educate on AIS.

- Antique Boat Museum (Clayton, NY), held on 6/8/2019 for 17 participants
- Costa FLW Youth Tournament (Massena, NY), held on 9/21/2019 for 200 participants

2. Host 2 Riverkeeper trainings (Thousand Islands and Kingston) and educate on AIS.

- Minna Anthony Common Nature Center (Wellesley Island State Park, NY), held on 8/7/2019 for 8 participants
- Thousand Islands Boat Museum (Gananoque, Ontario CA), held on 8/22/2019 for 18 participants

3. Attend five (5) professional Bass Tournaments and recruit participants for VSN.

- Renegade TI Kingston (Kingston, Ontario CA) held from 8/2-8/4/2019 for 70 direct contacts
- Renegade Morrisburg (Morrisburg, Ontario CA) 8/10-8/11/2019 for 39 direct contacts
- Bassmaster Waddington (Waddington, NY), held from 8/15-8/18/2019 for 96 direct contacts.
- TH Marine BFL Clayton (Clayton, NY), held from 9/14-9/15/2019 for 31 direct contacts.
- Costa FLW Massena (Massena, NY), held from 9/20-9/21/2019 for 57 direct contacts.
- Tench VSN recruitment yielded 37 new volunteers to expand early detection efforts throughout the region.
- Acknowledged SLELO PRISM at each training and outreach event, and recognized The Nature Conservancy, The SLELO PRISM, The NYSDEC and The NYS Environmental Protection fund for all printed materials.



Invasive species outreach display for anglers at Renegade Bass Tournament, Ontario, CA. Photo credit: Save The River.

In addition to the aforementioned project deliverables, Save The River provided additional programmatic outcomes to support early detection, education and outreach, and volunteer surveillance network engagement initiatives:

- 840 K-12 students learned how to identify tench and other aquatic invasive species through field trips, Junior Riverkeeper presentations, Girl Scout programming, and classroom programs.
- Save The River educated 74 teachers about aquatic invasive species and how to build AIS into k-12 curriculum
- 1,300 Save The River members received the Spring 2019 Riverwatch Newsletter and were notified to keep a lookout for tench, sign up for the VSN, an impacts of the species
- 175 people recieved the 2019 Save The River annual calendars and were notified to keep a lookout for tench, sign up for the VSN, and impacts of the species
- Save The River published 12 social media posts which reached 48,356 people though Save The River's Facebook page and the Catch and Release Facebook page. Social media posted covered tench, asian carp, northern snakehead, and additional aquatic invasive species
 - 3 Twitter posts reached 1,452 followers on Save The River's Twitter page. Social media posted covered tench, asian carp, and additional AIS
 - Save The River hosted a water chestnut pull with NYSDEC and SLELO PRISM for 19 participants and harvested over 150 lbs of plant material.
 - 150 Winter Environmental Conference attendees learned about the impacts of tench and Asian carp
 - Save The River trained 30 new iMapInvasive volunteers
 - Save The River educated 13 workshop attendees at the 6/13/2019 SLELO AIS Workshop



Left: 50 Girl Scouts learn about AIS. Right: Junior Riverkeepers learn to be on the lookout for tench. Photo credit: Save The River.



about the impacts of AIS. Photo credit: Save The River.

Final Project Budget

Budget Category	Requested	Project Cost	Match	Total (Project Cost + Match)
Personal/Staff Time	\$7860.30	\$7667.60	\$3779.23	\$11,446.83
Materials and Supplies	\$500	\$500	\$425.00	\$925
Contractual Services	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Printing and Postage	\$575.70	\$1,194.00	\$618.30	\$1,812.30
Travel	\$1064.00	\$1256.70	\$18.56	\$1275.26
Total	\$10,000	\$10,618.30	\$4841.09	\$15,459.39

Budget Narrative

Personal/Staff Time: Program Manager: 258 hours x \$17/hr = \$4,386.00 (attendance at 13 fishing tournaments dates, delivering 4 Riverkeeper Volunteer programs, volunteer recruitment for surveillance networks, delivering angler education programs, delivering 2 youth angler programs, program and education display development)

Executive Director: 87.57 hours x \$37.47/hr = \$3281.60 (programs, supervision)

Match: Volunteer Match: 10 hours @\$25.43/hr = \$250.43

Equipment: Boat/fuel for youth fishing tournament 10 hours @ \$25.40 = \$254.00

Executive Director 40 hours x \$37.47/hr = \$1,498.80

STR intern staff time 2 staff x 80 hours x \$11.10/hr = \$1776.00

Materials and Supplies: \$375 Catch and release and invasive species video for display

\$125 Tench specimen taxidermy

Match: \$125 Videographer in kind services

\$300 STR remainder cost of tench specimen taxidermy

Contractual Services: Not applicable

Printing and Postage: \$575.70 500 waterproof fact sheets, development and printing

Match: \$618.30 fact sheet printing costs

Travel: \$2,120.17 miles x \$.58/mile = \$1,229.70 (mileage to Cornwall ON, Massena NY, Alexandria Bay NY, Rockport ON, Morrisburg ON, Waddington NY and Kingston

ON)

\$3.00 toll x 9 trips = \$27.00

Match: 32 miles (taxidermy office) x .58 (federal mileage rate)= \$18.56

Save The River thanks SLELO PRISM and it's funding partners for selecting this special project and for their generous support. Through this project we were able to develop and expand education and outreach materials, identify new strategies to engage citizen scientists, enlist the help of anglers in volunteer surveillance of tench, and educate the next generation of youth anglers about the importance of detecting and reporting aquatic invasive species. 840 youth and 432 adults learned about tench and AIS through 29 programs hosted by Save The River resulting in 37 new tench Volunteer Surveillance Network participants. We expanded our partnerships throughout New York State, the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne, and Ontario Canada to further our shared goals to prevent the spread of invasive species. We look forward to future partnership opportunities to prevent and manage the spread of aquatic invasive species, educate our community about the impacts of these species, and promote citizen science programs throughout our region.