

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): A Serious Threat to New Hampshire

A selection from the presentation to NH House and Senate Committees

by the

Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee

A NH Legislative Study Committee

an excerpt presented to

Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel December 3, 2018

State Agencies and Committees

Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee

- Statutory study committee established in 2004 by RSA 487:30
- Members include representatives from the House, Senate, DES, F&G, Agriculture, five non-profit organizations, and two public members-at-large
- Responsible for:
 - Studying the spread and control of aquatic invasive species
 - Studying AIS best management practices used in other states
 - Assisting NH DES in the management of variable milfoil
 - Recommending a NH F&G program to manage aquatic invasive animal species

2017-18 EAWSC Membership

Rep. Suzanne Smith (chair)

Rep. Chris Christensen

Rep. Karen Ebel

Rep. Robert L'Heureux

Rep. John Mullen

Sen. Lou D'Allesandro

Glenn Normandeau (NH Fish & Game)

Amy Smagula (NH DES)

Robert Wolff (NHDAMF Pesticide Control)

- (NH Marine Trades Assoc.)
- Kathy Urffer (Connecticut River Conservevancy)
- Tom O'Brien (NH LAKES)
- Robert Reynolds (public member)
- Will Stevenson (New England Aquatic Management Society)
- Michele L Tremblay (New Hampshire Council
- Robert Wood (public member)

<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/committees/587/>

State Agencies and Committees

DES Exotic Species Program

- Responsible for aquatic invasive plant species
- One full-time employee and 1 seasonal intern
- Funded from boat registration fees



NH Fish and Game Department

- Responsible for aquatic invasive animal species (clams, mussels, insects, etc.)
- No dedicated staff or funding

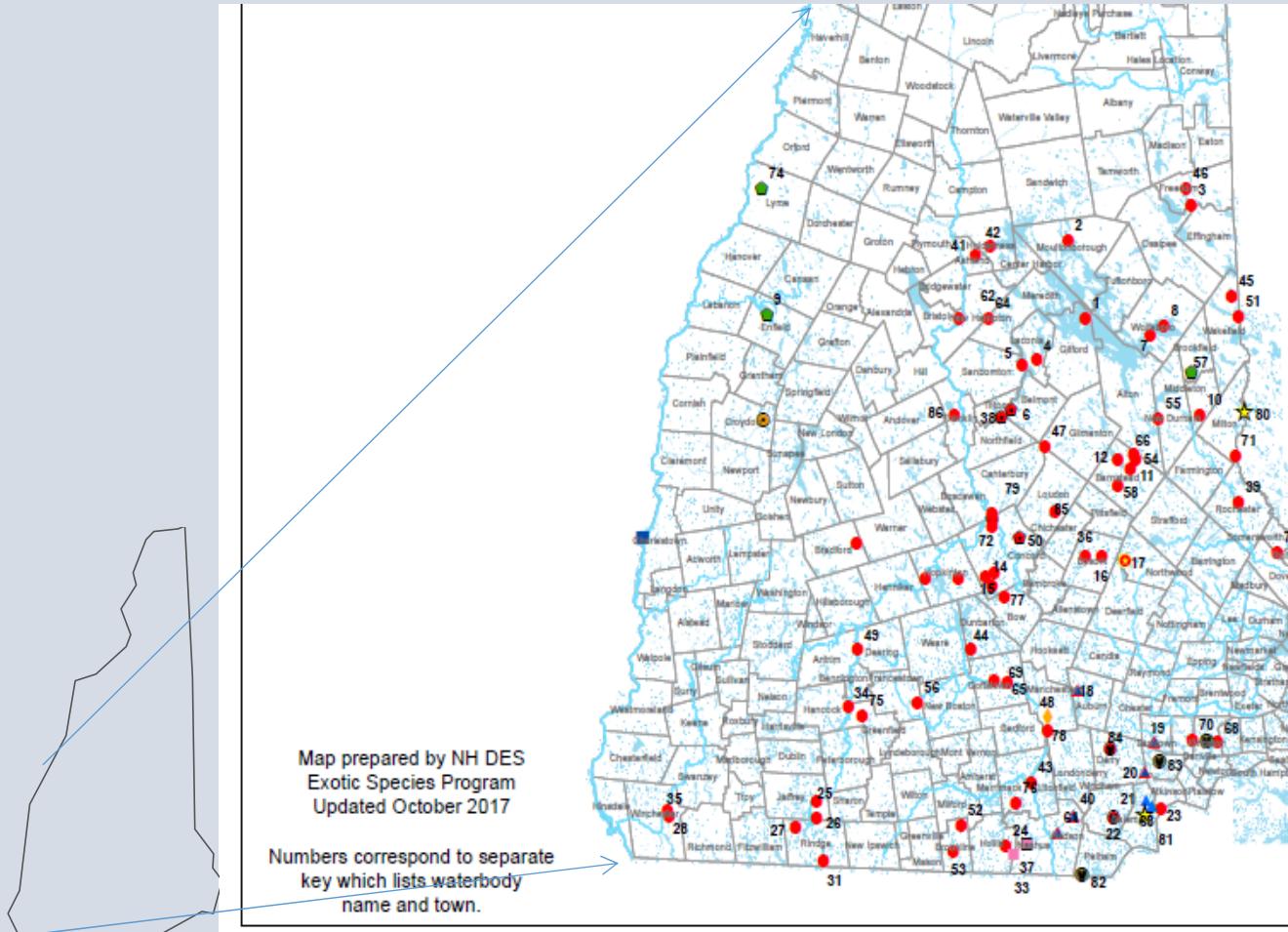
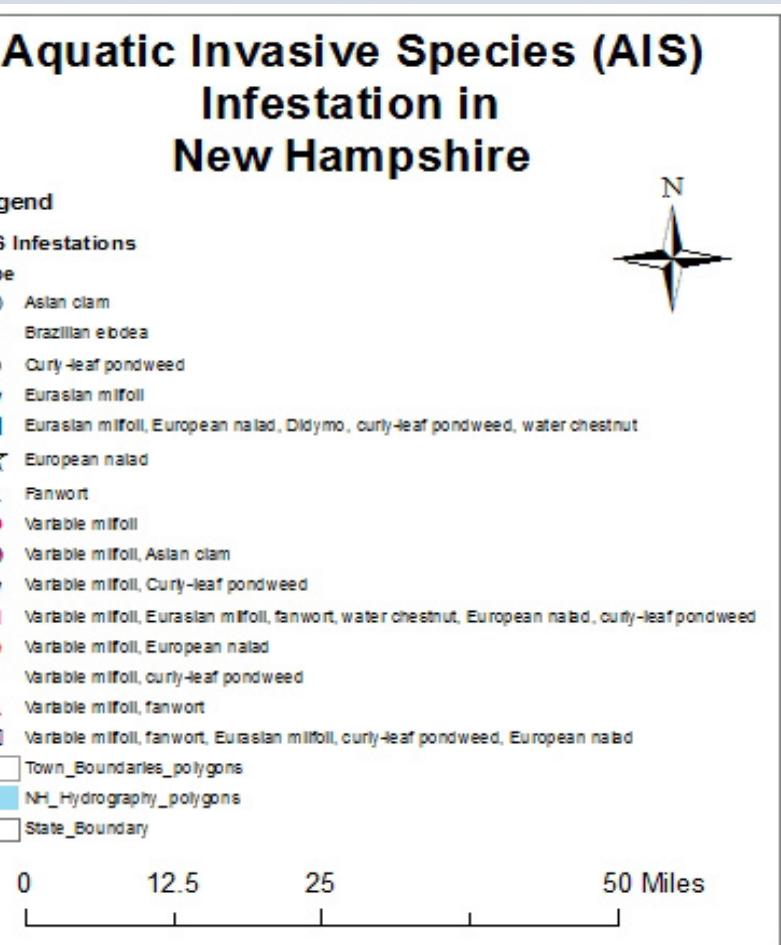


Dept. of Agriculture Pesticide Control Board

- Manages applications for herbicide treatments
- One part-time employee

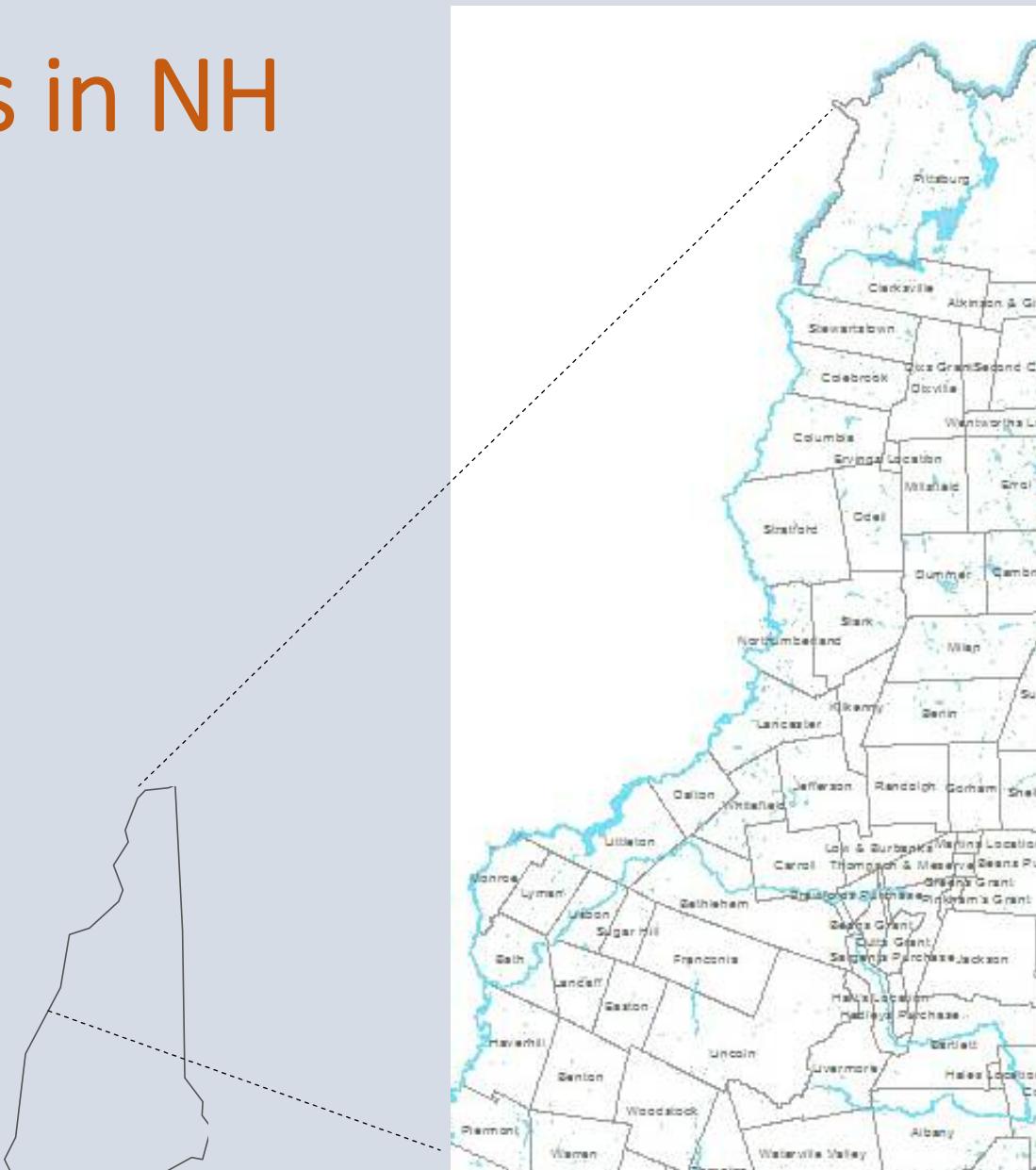
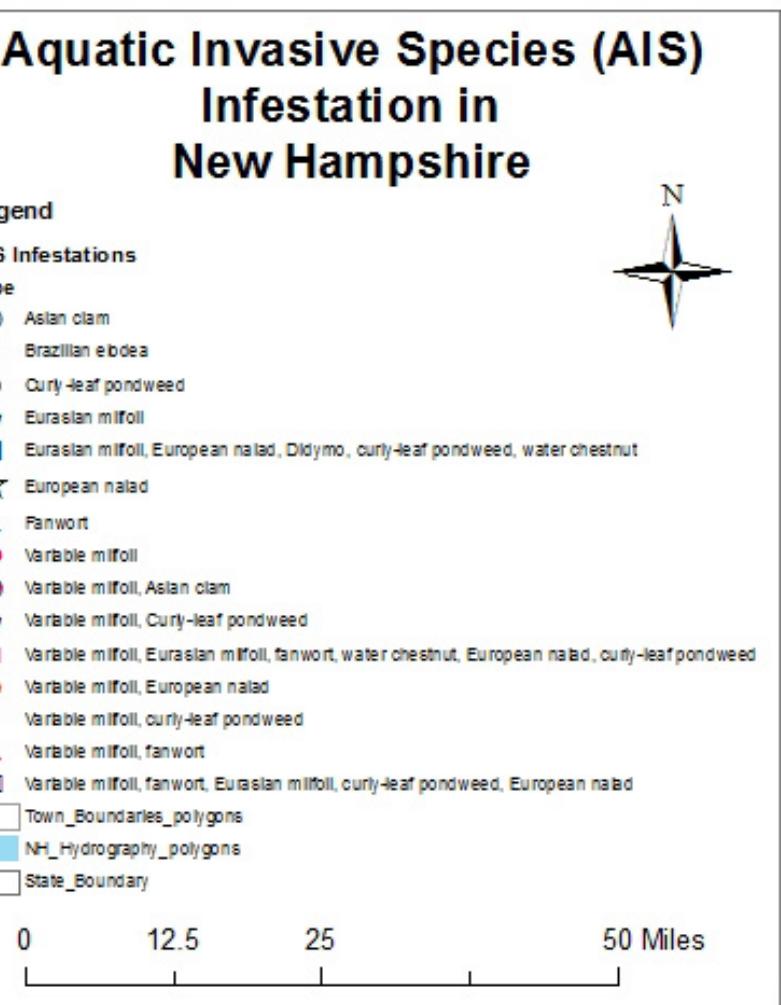


Known AIS Infestations in NH



October, 2017

Known AIS Infestations in NH

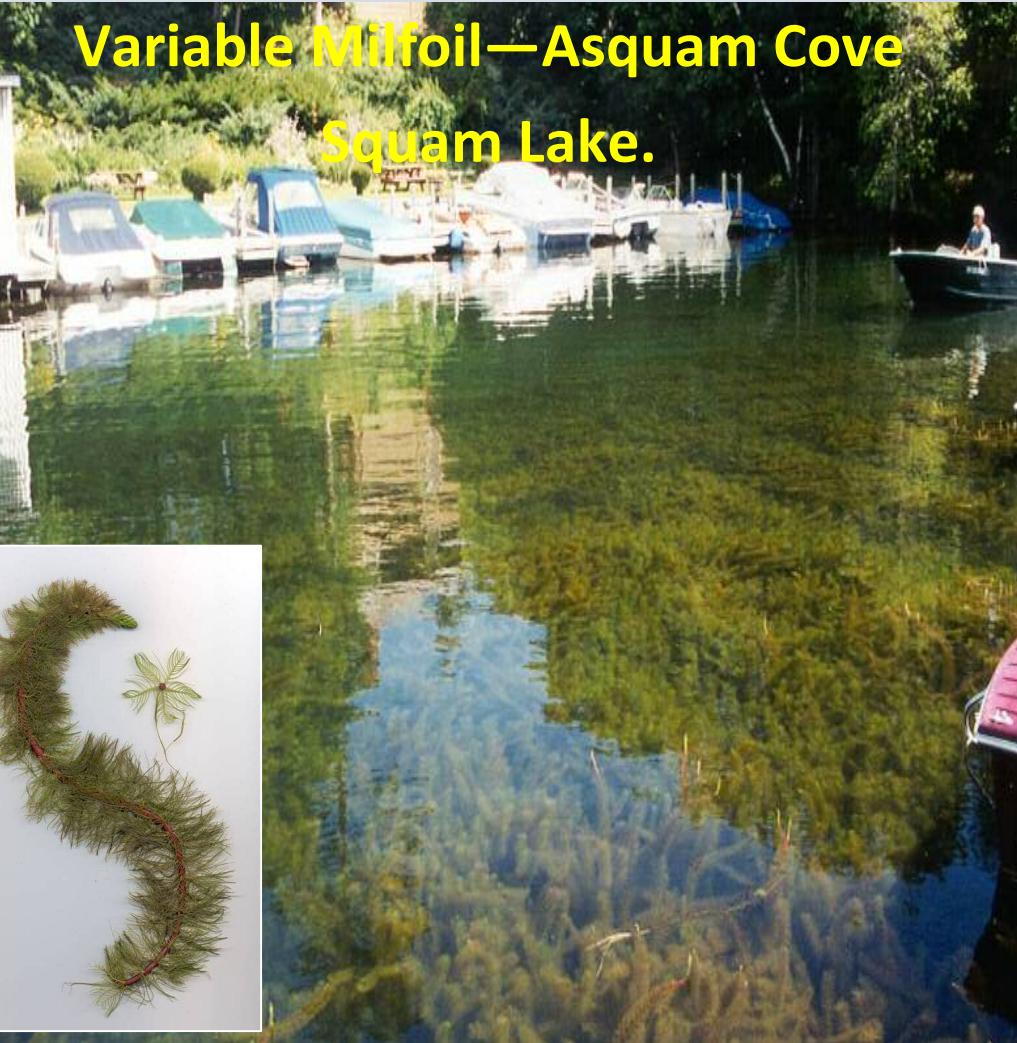


Known AIS-Infested Water Bodies in NH (2017)

Invasive Species	Number of Infested Lakes	Number of Infested Rivers
Variable milfoil	68	9
Canadian pondweed	8	1
Eurasian milfoil	4	2
European/brittle naiad	4	2
Curly leaf pondweed	3	3
Asian clam	6	1
Water chestnut	--	2

Most Threatening NH Aquatic Invasive Species

**Variable Milfoil—Asquam Cove
Squam Lake.**



Fanwort— Robinson Pond, Hudson



Most Threatening NH Aquatic Invasive Species

Water Chestnut in the Nashua River



European / Brittle Naiad—present in NH waterbodies in 2017



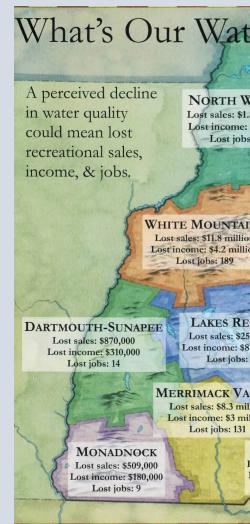
Most Threatening NH Aquatic Invasive Species



Economic Impacts: What's At Stake?

2007 lakes and rivers partnership study of tourism from boaters, swimmers, and anglers:

- Annual sales revenues - \$379 million ($\approx \$451m$)
- 6,000 jobs
- Annual tax revenues - \$134 million ($\approx \$160m$)



2001 study of milfoil impacts on real estate:

- 10-20% reduction in shorefront property values
- Cascading effects on property taxes and municipal budgets



Prevention and Early Detection

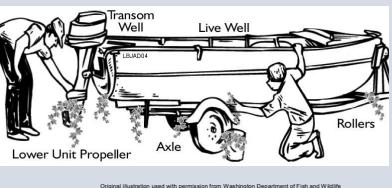
Legislation

Lake Hosts, Weed Watchers, River Runners, Outreach

**CLEAN
DRAIN
DRY**

Please perform a self-inspection of your boat, trailer and gear.

Remove tag-along plants, animals and algae before launching and after leaving a waterbody.



It is **ILLEGAL** to transport and introduce aquatic invasive species in New Hampshire.

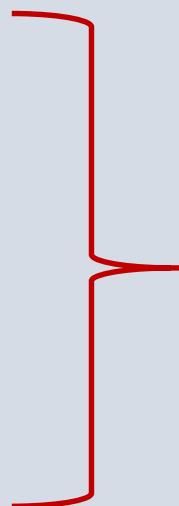
Violators are subject to fines.



Funding for AIS Activities

DE DES Exotic Species Program funding comes exclusively from dedicated boat registration fees and covers prevention and control grants, research, salaries, administration, and supplies & materials

- 1981: \$0.50 per boat registration
- 1998: \$1.50 per boat registration
- 2003: \$4.50 per boat registration
- 2009: \$7.50 per boat registration
- 2015: \$9.50 per boat registration



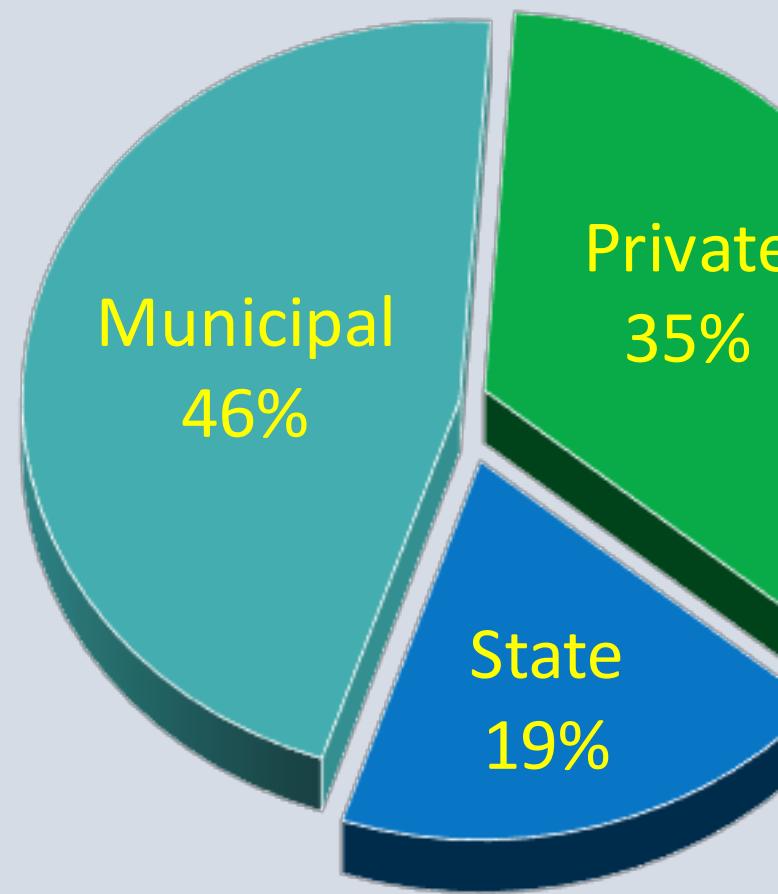
Annual average of 92,500 boats registered during past 5 years

Funding for AIS Activities

Ossipee Lake Alliance studies

- Variable milfoil is, by far, the most prolific AIS in NH, infesting 74 waterbodies
- More than \$1 million is spent each year on milfoil control projects
- Surveyed annual costs and revenue sources for milfoil control projects in all infested waterbodies in 2009-2012
- All “State” revenues come from dedicated boat registration fees – none from general funds

*Milfoil Control Funding
2009-2012*



We Need Your Support

Ideas, methods, and means to finance the increasing costs of AIS prevention, early detection, and control

Approaches to improve government coordination, cooperation, and effectiveness in the fight against AIS

Ideas, techniques, and assistance to increase public awareness and education about AIS threats

Innovative ways to protect New Hampshire's tourism industry and revenues from AIS threats