

# 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 Consevancy)
- 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

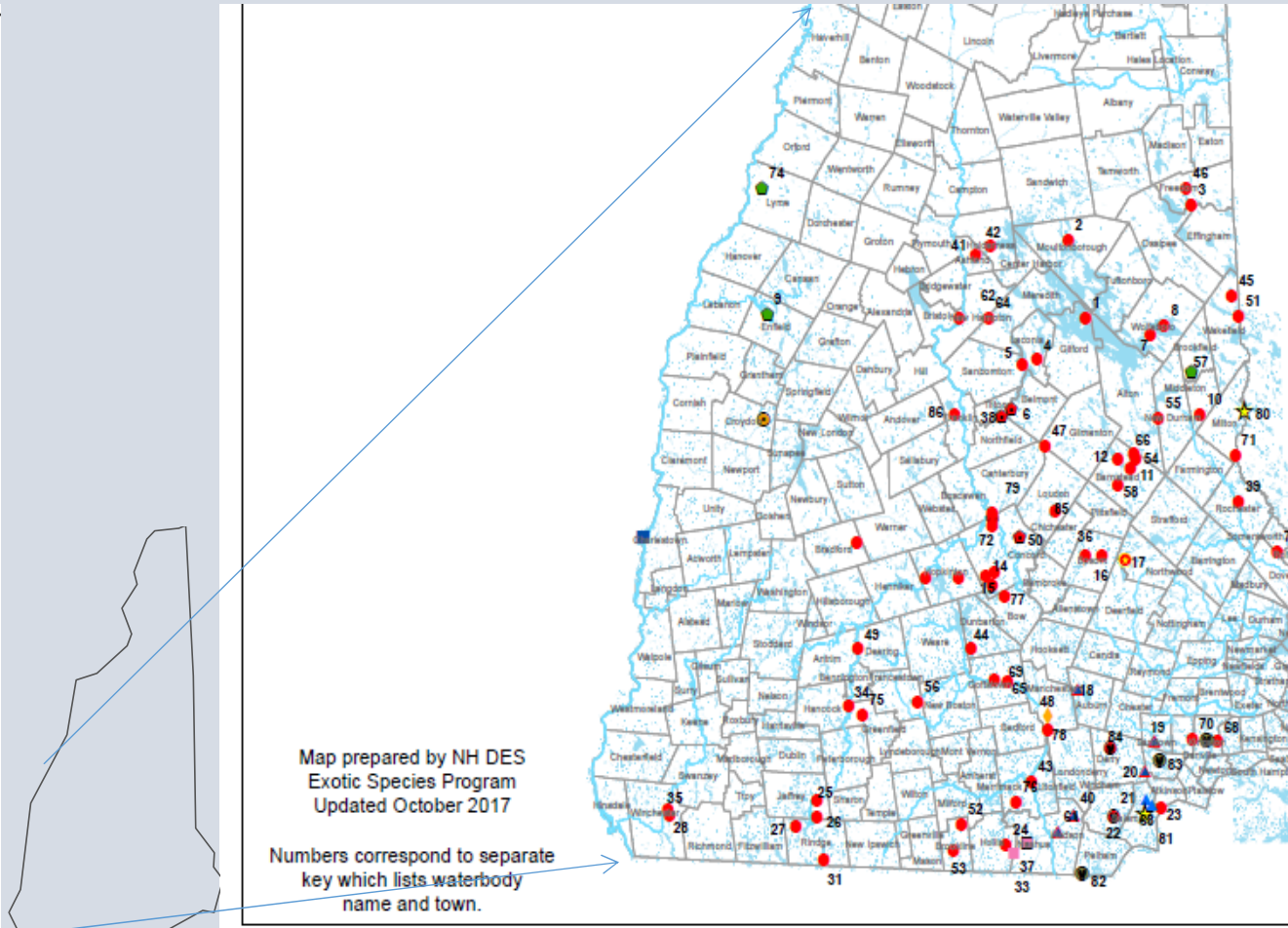
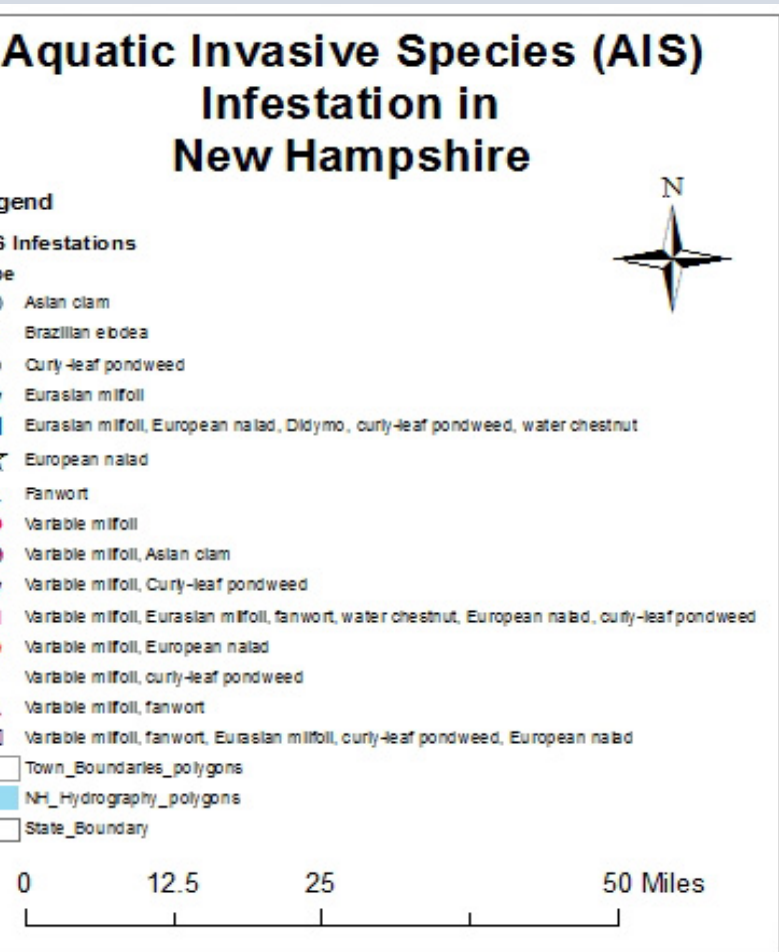


## Dept. of Agriculture Pesticide Control Board

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

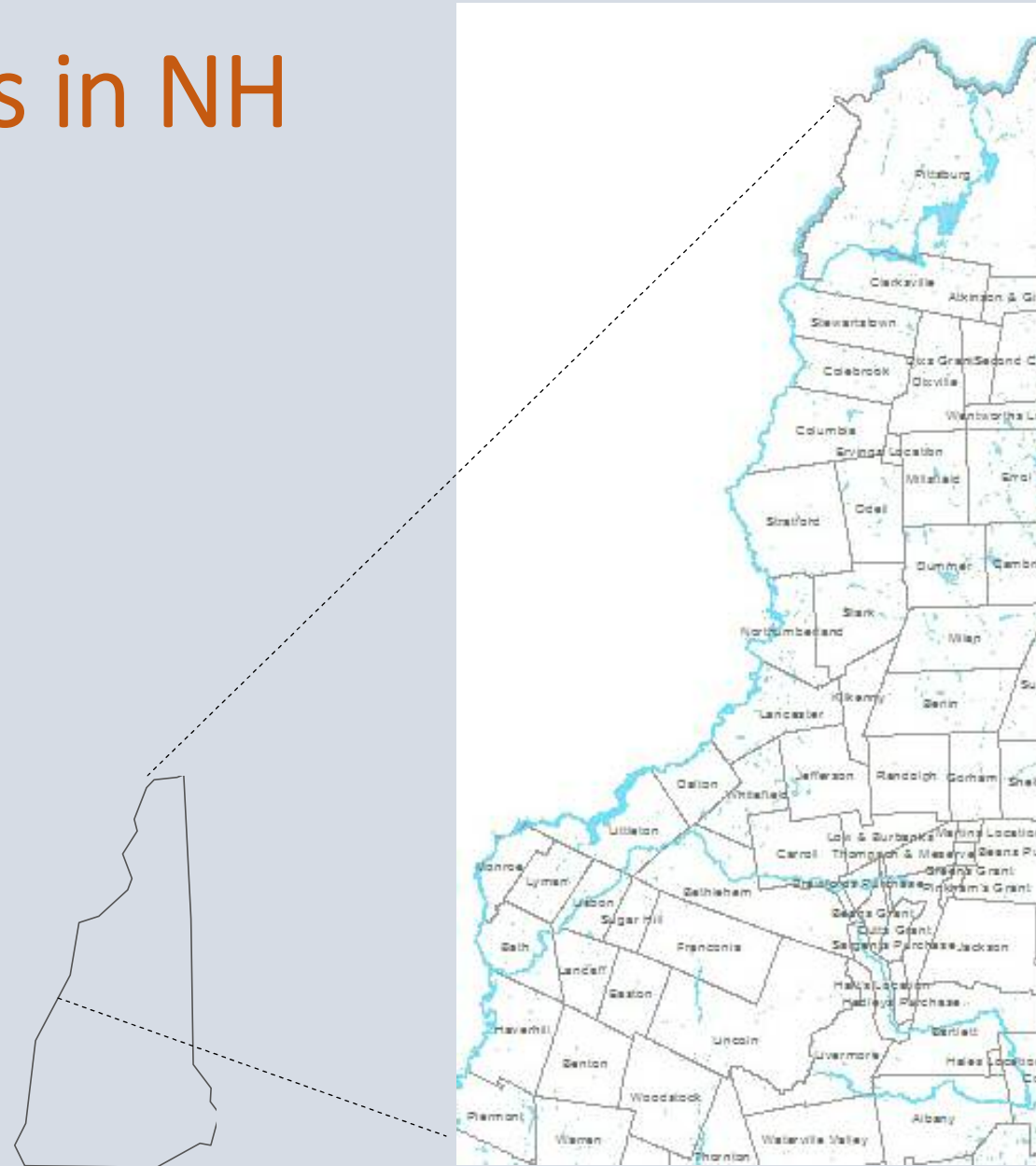
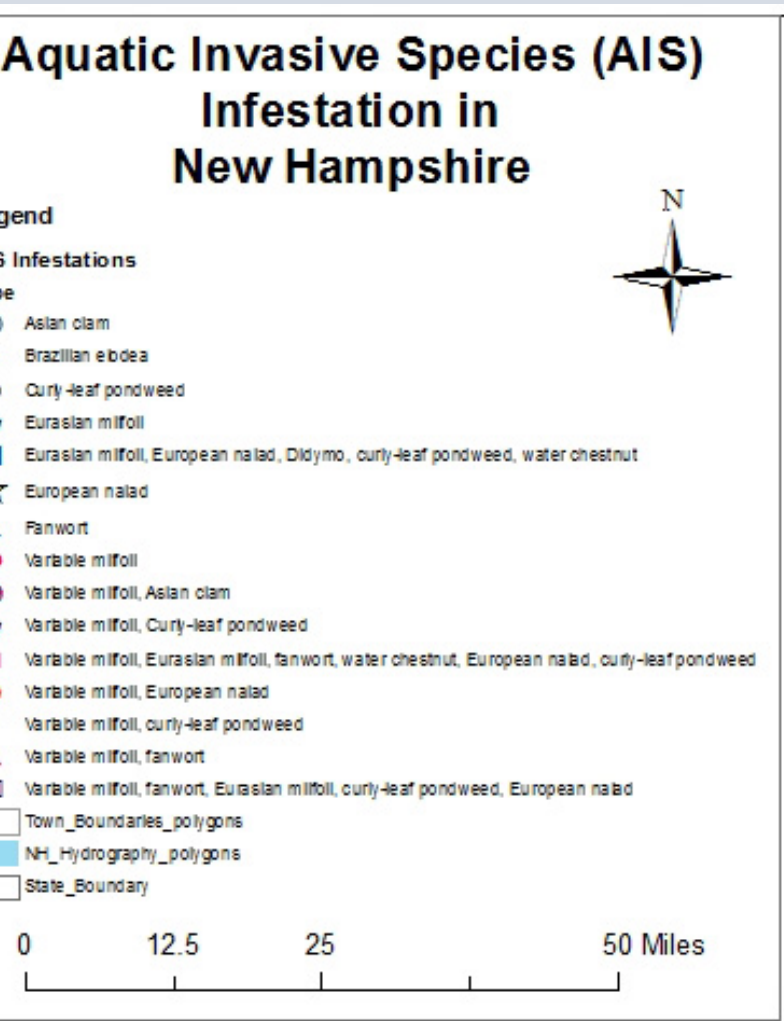


# Known AIS Infestations in NH



October, 2017

# Known AIS Infestations in NH



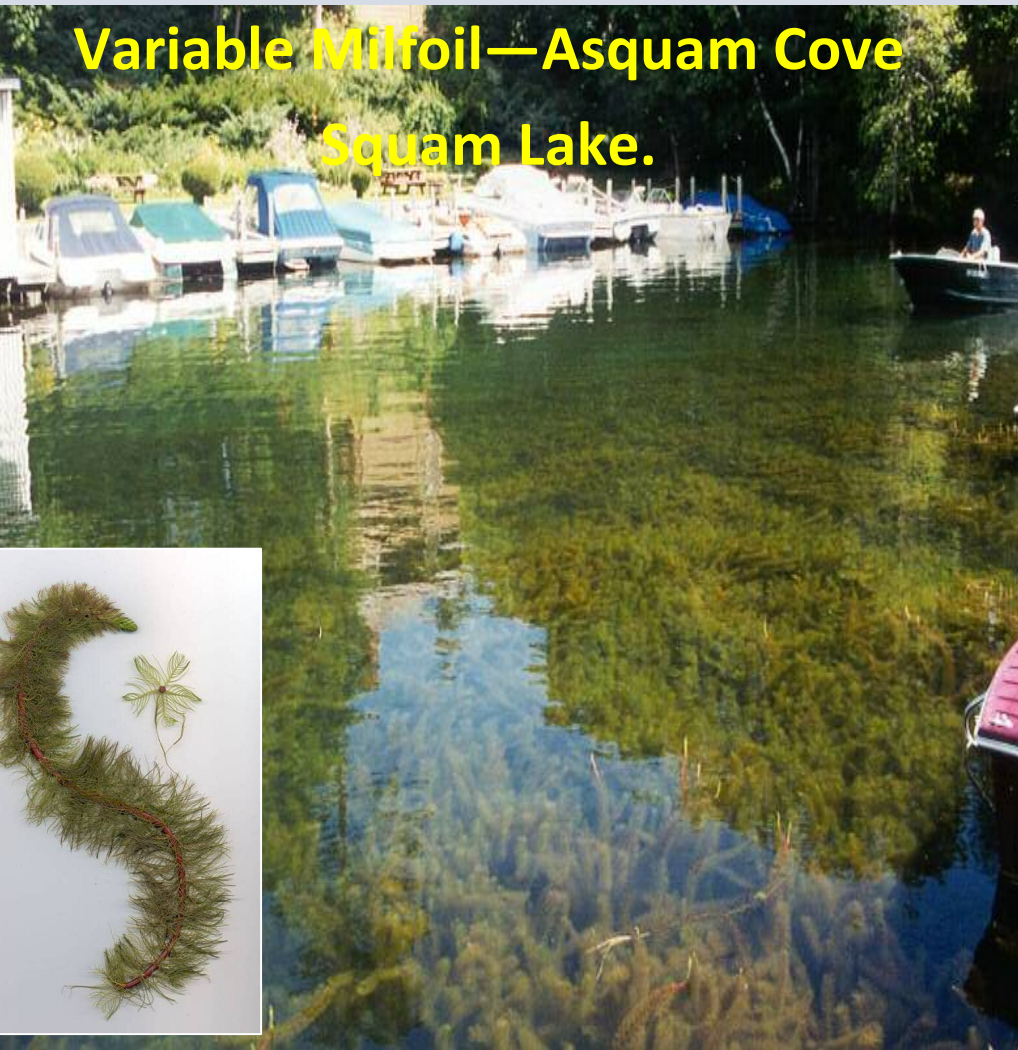


# Known AIS-Infested Water Bodies in NH (2017)

Invasive Species	Number of Infested Lakes	Number of Infested Rivers
Variable milfoil	68	9
Sparganium	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

Asian Clam—Merrimack River, Bow



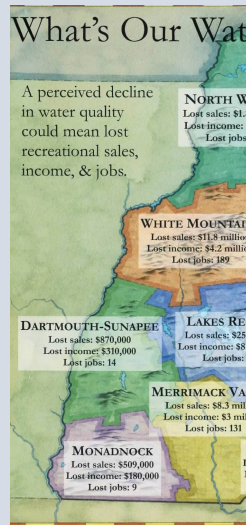
# Economic Impacts: What's At Stake?

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

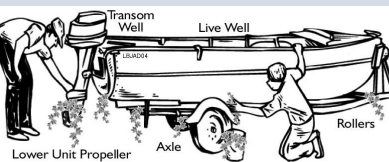
Legislation

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.



Aquatic Weeds & Species Committee



# Funding for AIS Activities

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

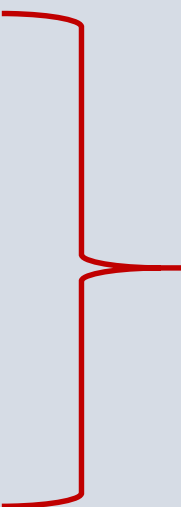
1981: \$0.50 per boat registration

1998: \$1.50 per boat registration

2003: \$4.50 per boat registration

2009: \$7.50 per boat registration

2015: \$9.50 per boat registration



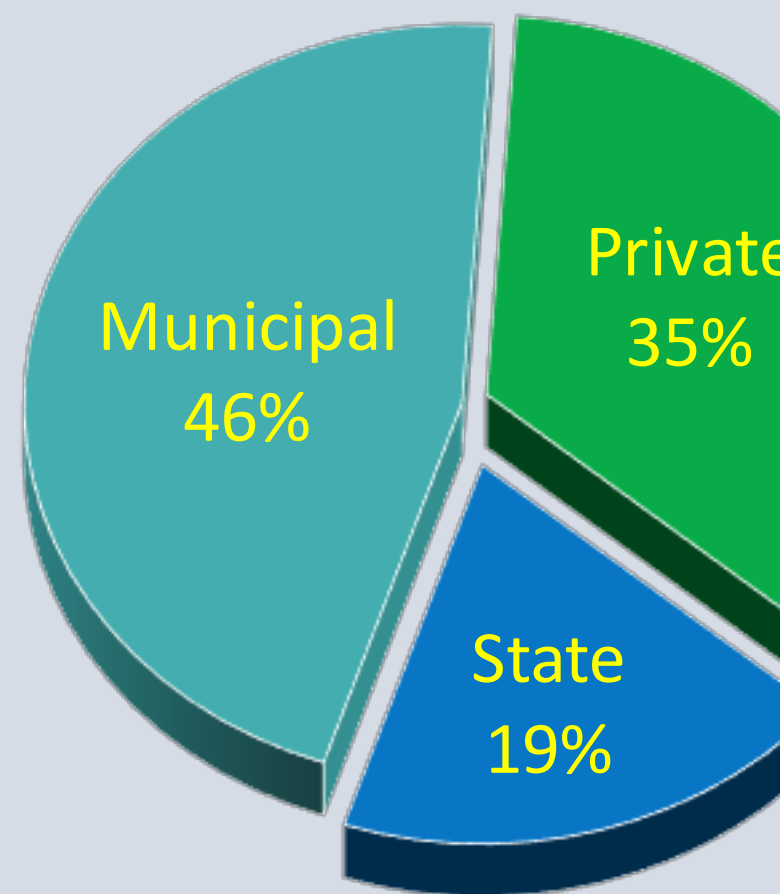
Annual average of 92,500 boats registered during past 5 years

# 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