

JOINT MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE & RULES COMMITTEE

AND THE INVASIVE SPECIES SUB-COMMITTEE

AGENDA

NOVEMBER 30, 2012

Approval of prior minutes - October 1, 2012 Legislative & Rules Committee meeting.

New Business:

- 1) Committees to consider adoption of a local law requiring mandatory boat inspections for transient boaters, as well as whether said local law should apply solely to Lake George or to all bodies of water in Warren County. (*Referral from the 10.19.12 Board Meeting*)
- 2) Mr. Dusek to discuss initiative to amend the Rules of the Board in 2013 to allow any Supervisor to request a Proclamation.

Pending Items (for the Legislative & Rules Committee):

- 1) County Administrator distributed the results of a survey of areas where beaver dams have created a problem, such as flooding, in each individual town. Due to a lack of time, the survey results will be discussed and reviewed at the next Committee meeting. Status. (10.01.12)
- 2) Proposing that any additional land purchases made by New York State for forest preserve offer an exchange of property which was previously acquired and not used for forest preserve. (03.07.12) Update: County Administrator to research the exact nature of this issue and report back to Committee. (06.28.12) Status. (10.01.12)
- 3) Resolution No. 427, Urging Congress to Repeal a Portion of the Universal Service Fund Surcharge that Provides Free Cellular Telephone Service to "Income Eligible" Individuals, was tabled at the July 20, 2012 Board meeting with a request that the matter be referred to Congressman Gibson for an opinion. Status. (10.01.12) (*Letter from Congressman Gibson attached*).
- 4) County Attorney to meet with Dave Wick, Executive Director of the Lake George Park Commission, to set up a regional meeting with Warren, Essex and Washington Counties and other agencies. (10.01.12)



HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

Subcommittee on Readiness

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 8, 2012

Paul Dusek, Warren County Administrator
Warren County Municipal Center
1340 State Route 9
Lake George, New York 12845-9803

Dear Mr. Dusek,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the Universal Service Fund and phone subsidies for low-income earners.

Since its creation in 1934, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has been tasked with “mak[ing] available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States ... a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communications service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges.” This mandate led to the development of what has come to be known as the universal service concept.

The “universal service concept” is the concept that all Americans should be able to afford access to the telecommunications network. Since the 1934 Communications Act, the preservation and advancement of universal service has been a basic tenet of federal communications policy, and Congress has historically played an active role in helping to preserve and advance universal service goals. The universal service concept, as originally designed, called for the establishment of policies to ensure that telecommunications services are available to all Americans, including those in rural, insular and high cost areas, by ensuring that rates remain affordable. The underlying goal of the policy was to increase the number of subscribers to the network by shifting costs among network providers and subscribers. Profits from more densely populated, lower cost urbanized areas helped to subsidize wiring and operation costs for the less populous, higher cost rural areas. Likewise, higher rates and equipment charges for business and long distance customers helped to subsidize the charges for residential local calling. Over the years this concept fostered the development of various FCC policies and programs to meet this goal.

In 1996 Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which not only codified the universal service concept, but also led to the establishment of a federal Universal Service Fund (USF) to meet the universal service objectives and principles contained in the 1996 Act. Though the fund was not officially established until 1996, most telephone subscribers have effectively contributed to universal service goals for decades.

The USF is administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), an independent-not-for-profit organization, under the direction of the FCC. The FCC, through the USF, offers universal service support through a number of direct mechanisms that target both providers of and subscribers to telecommunications services. The USF provides support and discounts for providers and subscribers through four programs: high-cost support; low-income support; schools and libraries support; and rural health care support. The USF receives no federal monies but is funded by mandatory contributions from telecommunications carriers that provide interstate service. Carriers then choose to pass the fee on to consumers as a charge on the consumer's bill.

The FCC's Lifeline program, which provides discounts on monthly telephone service for eligible low-income consumers, is supported by the USF. In line with the universal service concept goals, Lifeline is meant to ensure that all Americans have the opportunities and security that telephone service affords, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and 911 services. Lifeline provides discounts on monthly telephone service (averaging about \$9.25 per month) for eligible consumers. The program allows only one Lifeline service per household and eligible low-income consumers may receive a Lifeline discount on *either* a wireline or a wireless service, not on both services at the same time. Subscribers found to be violating this rule may be subject to criminal and/or civil penalties. Lifeline service is a non-transferable benefit, meaning consumers may not transfer their service or give their Lifeline-supported phone to any other individual, including another eligible consumer.

The Lifeline program is available to eligible low-income consumers in every state, territory, commonwealth, and on Tribal lands. To be eligible, consumers must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal Poverty Guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Food Stamps or SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program, Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribally-Administered Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TTANF), Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR), Head Start (if income eligibility criteria are met) or some state assistance programs. In most cases, consumers are required to provide documentation to prove the subscriber, one or more of the subscriber's dependents or the subscriber's household is eligible to receive Lifeline. Participants must verify their continued eligibility on an annual basis and, should they become ineligible for the benefit, participants must contact their provider immediately to de-enroll from the program. Violations of these eligibility guidelines subjects a participant to penalties.

As I have traveled through Upstate New York, homeowners, small business owners and farmers have shared with me the impact that the lack of reliable access to the telecommunications network has on their potential for growth. It is absolutely critical for economic development in the rural communities of New York that we continue to deploy telecommunications technology. Therefore, I am supportive of the universal service concept.

There is broad bipartisan support in Congress for the USF and a strong consensus that Congress has a role in ensuring all Americans, especially those in rural areas, have affordable access to the telecommunications network for both safety and economic reasons. However, there is also much discussion regarding the need to update and reform the USF. Universal Service Fund reform will continue to be a topic of congressional interest in the 112th Congress and beyond. Both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee have included USF reform on their agendas of issues for consideration and oversight. Additionally, three stand-alone measures (H.R. 2163, H.R. 3118, S. 297) relating to USF have been introduced to date. Last fall, the FCC also released a plan to reform the USF – *Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan*. Please rest assured that I will closely consider all plans to reform the USF or any legislation pertaining to the USF to ensure that the funds are being used in the most proper and prudent manner.

Thank you, again, for contacting my office. Please feel free to follow up with Rebecca Shaw (Rebecca.Shaw@mail.house.gov) or (202-225-5614) with any additional questions or concerns you may have specific to this issue. Do not hesitate to inform me in the future of anything else I can do to be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gibson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

Goal statement of Warren County Aquatic Invasive Species Sub-committee

Due to the facts that:

- a. Invasives are spreading from water body to water body
- b. Eventually they will spread to all of our water bodies
- c. It is far less expensive to prevent their spread and infestation than it is to wait and try to attack after they spread throughout the water bodies
- d. Our water bodies are the "life-blood" of our region, both economically and spiritually

Be it resolved, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors is committed to, and will put out every effort to effect the following:

1. We will stop the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout the water bodies of Warren County
2. We will attempt to identify and eradicate every infestation of aquatic invasive species as quickly as possible

Warren County Board of Supervisors

WARREN COUNTY MUNICIPAL CENTER
1340 STATE ROUTE 9
LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK 12845-9803



Telephone 518-761-6535
Fax 518-761-7652

Daniel G. Stec, Chairman

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board

November 27, 2012

Adirondack Park Agency
P.O. Box 99
Ray Brook, N.Y. 12977

Att: Ed Snizek, Associate Adirondack Park Project Analyst
Freshwater Resources

Dear Mr. Snizek:

On behalf of the Warren County Board of Supervisors, I would like to offer the following comments with regard to the modified APA General Permit for invasive species control:

The Board is appreciative of the APA's expansion of the work that can be conducted under the General Permit. However, the limitation of less than three acres of contiguous coverage is not needed and will limit the ability for rapid response treatment. In addition, the limitation of two consecutive years of treatment followed by one untreated year is counter-productive to the long term effectiveness of these treatments. It would be our hope that a provision could be added to the General Permit whereby those limitations are removed.

Our collective efforts to control invasive species is an investment in the economic and environmental future of Lake George. Since this is a learning experience for all of us, I would ask that these permit limitations be lifted.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Stec'.

Daniel G. Stec
Chairman

Summary of Lake George Lake Steward Key Findings from 2008-2012

Total Boats

Launch	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Norowal Marina	1264	1030	807	2227	2337
Mossy Point	949	1410	875	3598	1836
Dunham's Bay	437	445	—	512	174
Hague Town	152	531	279	351	967
Rogers Rock	126	424	577	1796	1658
Northwest Bay	31	—	—	—	—
Island View Marina	25	—	—	—	—
Gull Bay	—	16	—	—	—
Million Dollar Beach	—	—	—	109	—
Total	2984	3856	2538	8593	6972

Average Boats per Day

Launch	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Norowal Marina	26	17	22	32	26
Mossy Point	19	21	16	31	19
Dunham's Bay	12	10	—	9.5	11
Hague Town	17	13	7	8	10
Rogers Rock	16	14	12	22	18
Northwest Bay	16	—	—	—	—
Island View Marina	5	—	—	—	—
Gull Bay	—	1	—	—	—
Million Dollar Beach	—	—	—	14	—

Number Invasive Species Removed

Launch	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Norowal Marina	28	33	15	13	52
Mossy Point	6	30	19	1	36
Dunham's Bay	11	5	—	3	0
Hague Town	15	2	11	50	23
Rogers Rock	1	5	8	20	20
Northwest Bay	0	—	—	—	—
Island View Marina	0	—	—	—	—
Gull Bay	—	0	—	—	—
Million Dollar Beach	—	—	—	0	—
Total	61	75	53	87	131

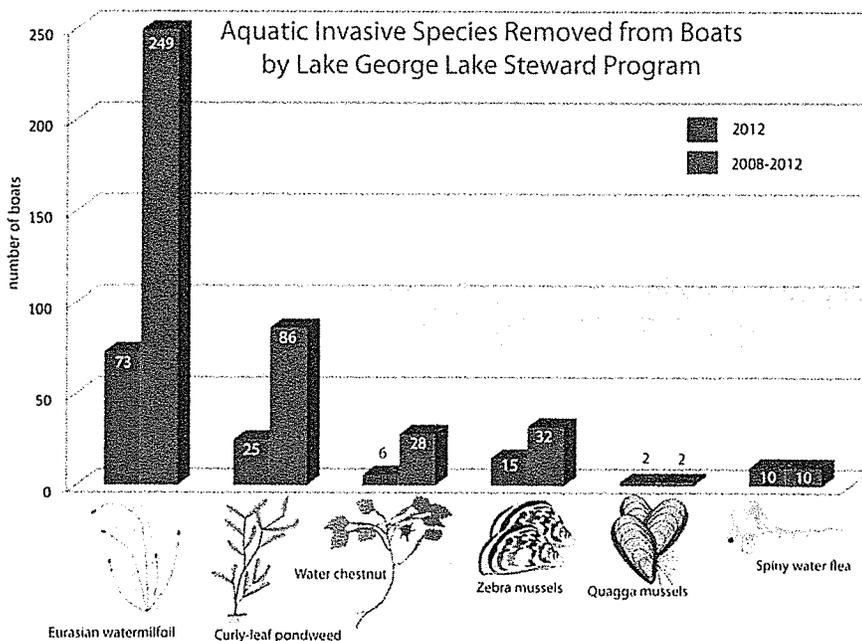
Invasive Species Found

Species	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Eurasian watermilfoil	28	48	36	64	73	249
Curly-leaf pondweed	24	13	9	15	25	86
Water chestnut	4	7	5	6	6	28
Zebra Mussels	5	7	3	2	15	32
Quagga Mussels	—	—	—	—	2	2
Spiny Water Flea	—	—	—	—	10	10
Total	61	75	53	87	131	407

At Risk Boats

Boats that have been in a waterbody other than Lake George within two weeks prior to launching at a Lake George launch

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
% at Risk	—	14%	31%	16.50%	13%



The 2012 Lake George Lake Steward Program is funded by the Lake George Park Commission, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation through the Lake George Association.

11.29.12

Summary of Program Expenses/Coverage

year	# stewards	General coverage	cost
2008	4 stewards	7 launches: 5 days a week, 8 hours per day	\$40,664
2009	5 stewards	6 launches: 5 days a week, 8 hours per day	\$46,307
2010	4 stewards	4 launches: 3-5 days a week, 8 hours per day	\$22,728
2011	8 stewards	6 launches: 5-7 days a week, 8-12 hours per day	\$55,810
2012	9 stewards	5 launches: 7 days a week, 8-12 hours per day	\$49,555

Most Common Bodies of Water Visited within 2 Weeks Prior to Launching in Lake George From 2008-2012 Lake George Lake Steward Program Data

Waterbody	Number of Boats					Total
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Hudson River (NY)	89	65	33	100	86	373
Lake Champlain	51	62	65	97	96	371
Saratoga Lake (NY)	47	38	28	69	73	255
Lake Hopatcong (NJ)	54	20	19	55	60	208
Atlantic Ocean	52	12	18	34	53	169
Schroon Lake (NY)	24	17	23	47	39	150
Long Island Sound (NY)	22	17	13	48	40	140
Candlewood Lake (CT)	22	13	4	33	33	105
Connecticut River (CT)	23	11	8	27	22	91
Greenwood Lake (NY/NJ)	22	11	14	20	14	81
Sacandaga Lake (NY)	25	4	9	18	18	74
Brant Lake (NY)	5	8	7	26	17	63
Lake Wallenpaupack (PA)	15	2	5	21	9	52
Delaware River	13	11	2	7	8	41
Great Sacandaga Lake (NY)	0	20	0	2	19	41
St. Lawrence River	5	4	12	6	3	30
Swinging Bridge Lake (NY)	4	10	1	6	3	24
Lake Dunmore (VT)	4	3	9	5	6	7

Red: 40 or more known AIS Orange: 1 or more known AIS Green: No known AIS Blue: NA (salt water)

Funding for the Lake George Lake Steward Program has been provided by many different sources over the years including: The Lake George Association through the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation, NYS DOS under Title 11 of the EPF, The Lake Champlain Basin Program, Bolton Local Development Corporation, Town of Hague, Lake George Park Commission.

Key Findings

Number of Boats

Lake stewards recorded 6,972 boats during the 2012 season. Norowal Marina had 2,337 boats which was the greatest number of boats out of the covered launches. Mossy Point had the second most boats recorded with 1,836, then Rogers Rock with 1,658; followed by 967 at Hague Town Launch, and 174 at Dunham's Bay (Table 1).

Launch	Number of Boats
Dunham's Bay	174
Hague Town	967
Mossy Point	1836
Norowal Marina	2337
Rogers Rock	1658
Total	6972

Some of the launches were busier than others, however the lake stewards spent different amounts of time at different launches. Therefore the total number of boats inspected is not necessarily an accurate measure of overall launch activity.

Table 1: Summary of boats recorded at each launch during the summer and early fall season of 2012.

The stewards were stationed at launches from May 25th to September 28th. Lake stewards worked at Dunham's Bay for 16 days during the summer, 93 days at Hague Town Launch, 97 days at Mossy Point, 90 days at Norowal Marina, and 92 days at Rogers Rock. Calculating the average number of boats inspected per day provides a more accurate representation of the boat traffic at various launches (Figure 1). Norowal Marina had the most boat traffic averaging 26 boats per day, Mossy Point and Rogers Rock had similar boat traffic with an average of 19 and 18 boats per day respectively.

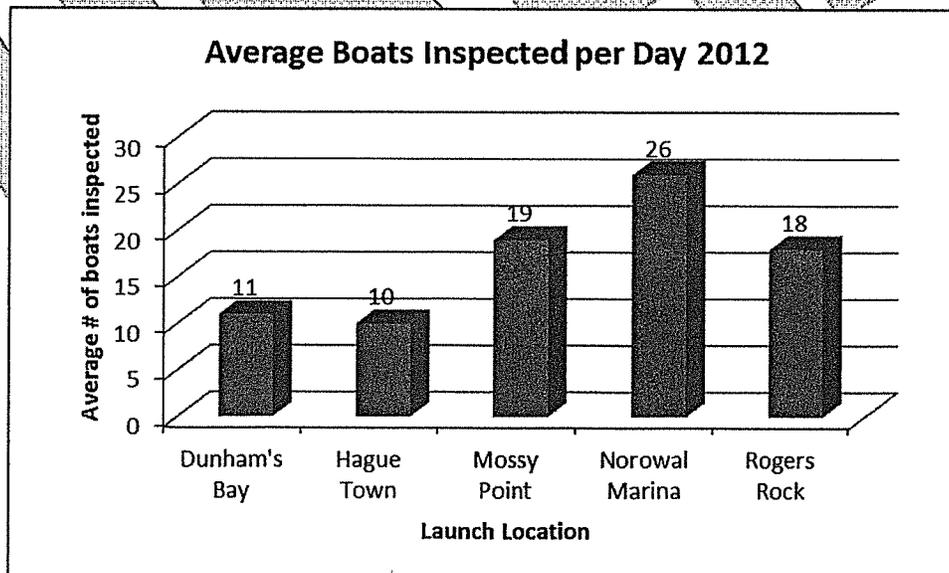
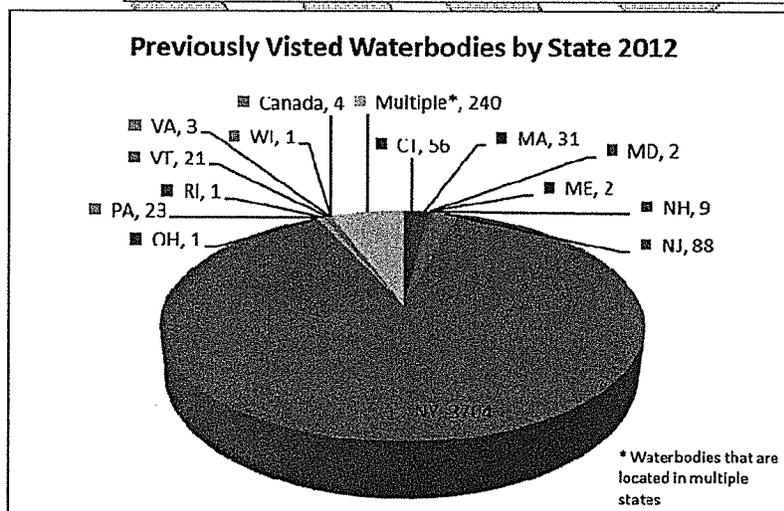
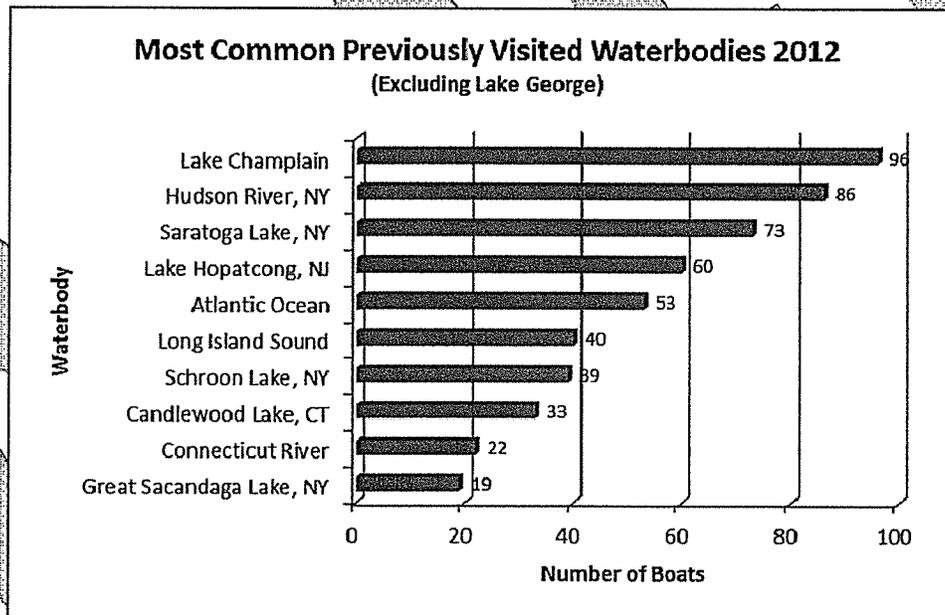


Figure 1: Average number of boats recorded per day by lake stewards at the five different launches. Norowal Marina had the most boat traffic averaging 26 boats per day.

Where are boats coming from?

Lake stewards asked boaters what body of water their boat had been within the last two weeks. The response was 155 unique waterbodies located in 14 different states. Lake George itself was the most commonly visited waterbody with 3,282 visits within two weeks prior to launching. Lake Champlain was the second most popular response for a previous waterbody with 96 responses followed by the Hudson River with 86 responses and Saratoga Lake in New York with 73 responses (Figure 2). Boaters most frequently had visited waterbodies in New York prior to launching in Lake George. 3,704 boats responded being in a waterbody in New York State within the past two weeks. Some of those boats had last been in Lake George. Some boaters reported that they had not been in a waterbody in the past two weeks. Boaters also commonly responded with waterbodies in New Jersey, which had 88 boaters say that they had been in a waterbody located there within the past two weeks. Stewards recorded 56 occasions in which a boater said they had visited a waterbody in Connecticut within two weeks prior to launching in Lake George (Figure 3).



Above:
 Figure 2: Most common previously visited waterbodies for all launches in 2012. 96 boats had been in Lake Champlain within 2 weeks of launching at Lake George.

Left:
 Figure 3: States with waterbodies visited within two weeks prior to launching in Lake George. 3,704 boats had previously been in a waterbody located in New York State.

Maps showing waterbodies visited within 2 weeks prior to launching at Lake George



Lake stewards asked boaters prior to launching where their boat had been within the last two weeks and the total response was 155 unique waterbodies in 14 different states. Some locations were not state specific such as the Atlantic Ocean, Lake Champlain, Great Lakes, and various rivers.

The enlargement to the right shows the waterbodies that boats had previously been in that are located in the Northeast.

Boaters most frequently had visited lakes in New York prior to launching in Lake George. 3,704 boats had been in a waterbody in New York State within the past two weeks. Boaters also commonly responded with waterbodies in New Jersey, which had 88 boaters say that they had been in a waterbody located there within the past two weeks.

Stewards recorded 56 occasions in which a boater said they had visited a waterbody in Connecticut within two weeks prior to launching in Lake George.

Map showing previously visited waterbodies in New York State within 2 weeks prior to launching at Lake George



The above map shows the locations of the 59 waterbodies in New York State that were visited within two weeks prior to boaters launching into Lake George. The list below gives the corresponding waterbody name for the numbers on the map.

At Risk Boats

At risk boats are those that have been in a body of water other than Lake George within two weeks prior to their lake steward interaction at Lake George. The two week time is chosen by generalizing the amount of time that aquatic invasive species can live out of water. Some species can live out of water longer than two weeks.

Of all the inspected boats launching into Lake George, one and a half percent were found with an invasive species sample. However, 13 percent of the boats inspected were in a waterbody other than Lake George within two weeks prior to launching in Lake George and could have the potential to spread invasive species.

Number of samples removed from boats

After interacting with boaters, lake stewards would request to take a visual inspection of the trailer and boat for any plant or animal species. Boaters were encouraged to look along with the stewards so that they could learn how to inspect the boat themselves.

Lake stewards inspected 6,972 boats being either launched or retrieved from Lake George. If an aquatic species was found on a trailer or boat the lake steward would remove it and put it in a sealed bag with the boat registration number, date, and launch location written on the front. Aquatic species were then identified by LGA staff. A single boat could have had more than one plant or animal species removed which resulted in a different number of total samples than number of boats found with plant and animal material.

Between all five of the launches, a total of 272 samples were removed from 189 boats or trailers before launching or after leaving Lake George (Table 2). 185 samples were removed from boats prior to launching and 87 samples were removed from boats after retrieval. Out of the 272 samples, 131 were found to be an invasive species, making 48% of all samples removed invasive. 91 invasive species samples were removed from boats prior to launching (Table 3).

Launch	Boats with samples	Total Samples removed	Boats with invasive species samples	Total Invasive species samples removed
Dunham's Bay	2	3	0	0
Hague Town	18	32	15	23
Mossy Point	55	74	32	36
Norowal Marina	75	112	45	52
Rogers Rock	39	51	20	20
Total	189	272	112	131

Table 2: Summary of all samples removed from boats during 2012. A total of 272 samples were removed from 189 boats. 131 samples were identified as an invasive species.

Launch	Total Samples removed prior to launch	Invasive species samples removed prior to launching	Total samples removed after retrieval	Invasive species samples removed after retrieval
Dunham's Bay	1	0	2	0
Hague Town	3	3	29	20
Mossy Point	58	29	16	7
Norowal Marina	99	49	13	3
Rogers Rock	24	10	27	10
Total	185	91	87	40

Table 3: Summary of samples removed from boats prior to launching or when retrieving during 2012. 185 samples were removed from boats prior to launching. 91 of those samples were identified as an invasive species.

Invasive Species Found

There were six species identified that are considered invasive out of the 272 total samples: Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM), curly-leaf pondweed (CLP), water chestnut (WC), zebra mussels (ZM), quagga mussels (QM) and spiny water flea (SWF). A total of 131 invasive species samples were removed which included 73 Eurasian watermilfoil, 25 curly-leaf pondweed, 6 water chestnut, 15 zebra mussel, 2 quagga mussel, and 10 spiny water flea samples (Figure 4). Samples were taken from boats launching and retrieving from Lake George. There were 91 invasive species samples removed from boats prior to launching into Lake George: 57 Eurasian watermilfoil, 13 curly-leaf pondweed, 5 water chestnut, 14 zebra mussels, and 2 quagga mussels (Figure 5). Lake stewards removed 40 samples of invasive species from boats being retrieved from Lake George: 16 Eurasian watermilfoil, 12 curly-leaf pondweed, 1 water chestnut, 1 zebra mussel, and 10 spiny water flea (Figure 6). Norowal Marina lake stewards removed the largest quantity of invasive species samples from boats before they were launched, and Hague's lake stewards removed the most invasive species from boats when being retrieved from Lake George.

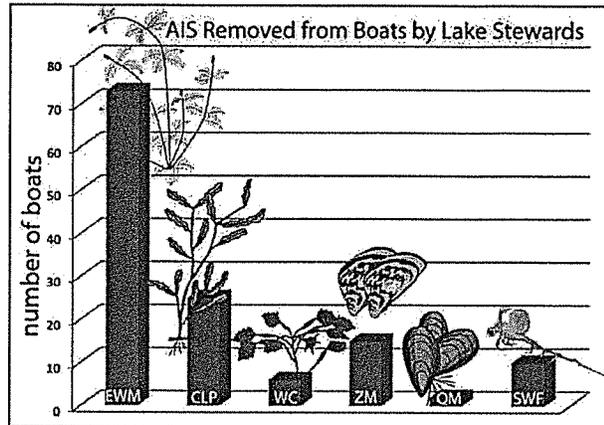


Figure 4: Aquatic invasive species removed from boats by lake stewards in 2012. Lake stewards removed 75 samples of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM).

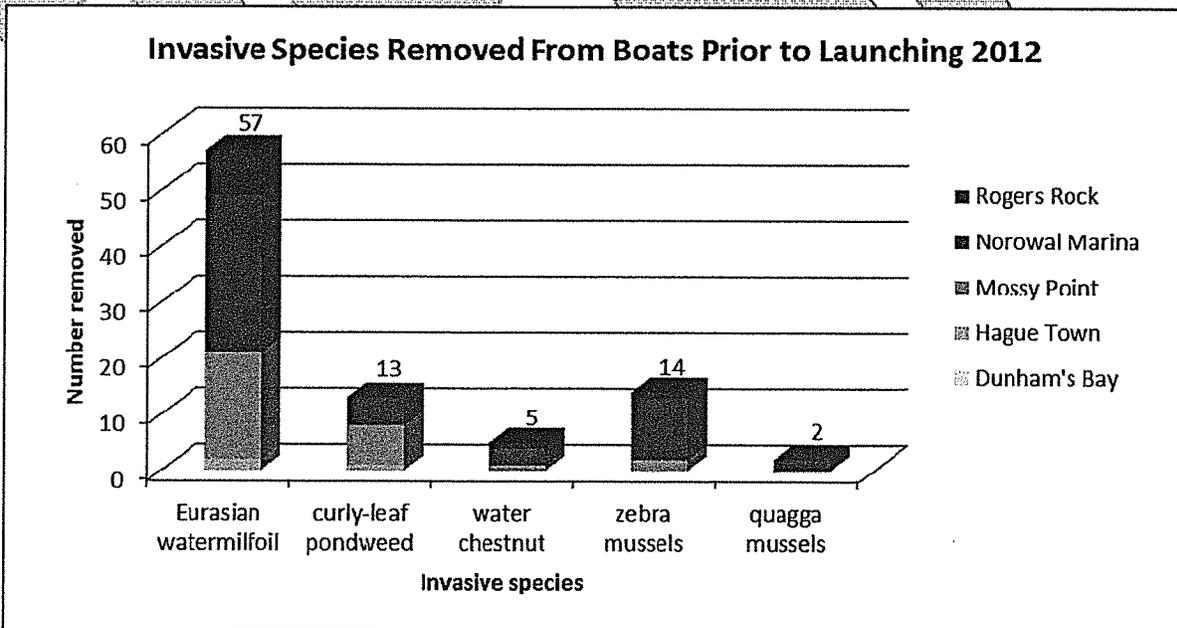
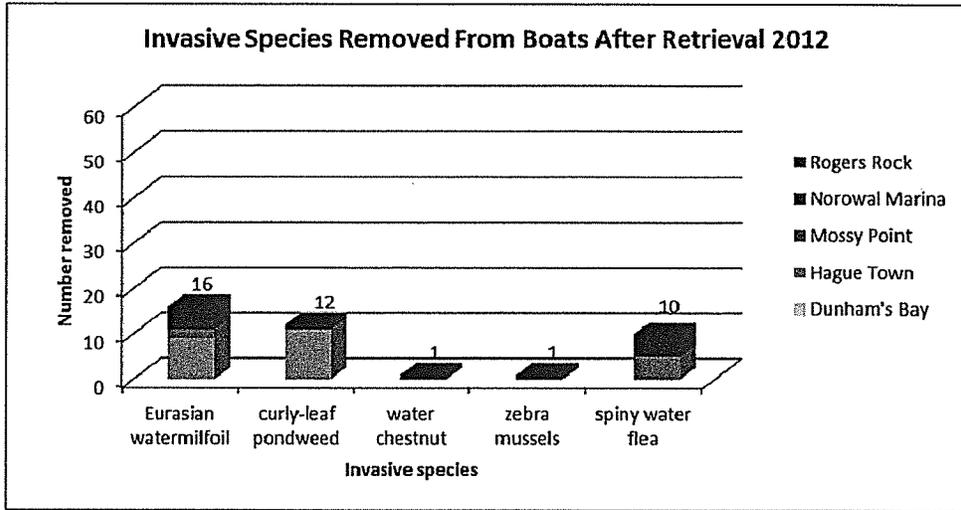


Figure 5: Invasive species removed from boats prior to launching in 2012. 57 samples of Eurasian watermilfoil were removed from boats prior to launching into Lake George.

Figure 6: Invasive species removed from boats after retrieval in 2012. 16 samples of Eurasian watermilfoil were removed from boats coming out of Lake George.



Possible Sources of Invasive Species Introductions into Lake George

The lake steward program addresses the overland transport pathway of aquatic invasive species. Possible sources of invasive species are the waterbodies trailered boats come from within the prior two weeks of launching in Lake George. The possible sources listed in this report are only for invasive species removed from boats launching into Lake George. The waterbodies are only possible sources because the invasive species found may not be present in that waterbody and had attached to the boat in a previous waterbody. However, by examining the possible sources of the invasive species removed from boats that were about to be launched in Lake George, it can be estimated where the possible invasive species “hot spots” are. This information can help regional efforts to prioritize spread prevention messages.

A previous waterbody was only recorded if the boat had been in that waterbody within two weeks prior to entering Lake George, therefore some of the samples collected do not have a waterbody associated with them. Of the samples collected, 21 waterbodies are possible sources for the spread of invasive species into Lake George. There were 17 possible sources of Eurasian watermilfoil, 6 for curly-leaf pondweed, 1 for water chestnut, 3 for zebra mussels and 2 for Quagga mussels (Figures 7-11).

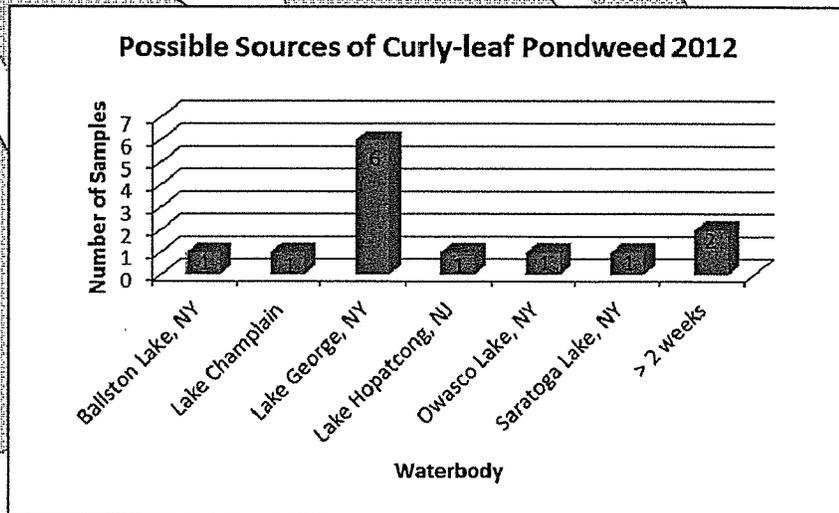


Figure 7: Possible sources of curly-leaf pondweed for all five launches in 2012. On 6 occasions a lake steward found curly-leaf pondweed on a launching boat that had been in Lake George within 2 weeks prior.

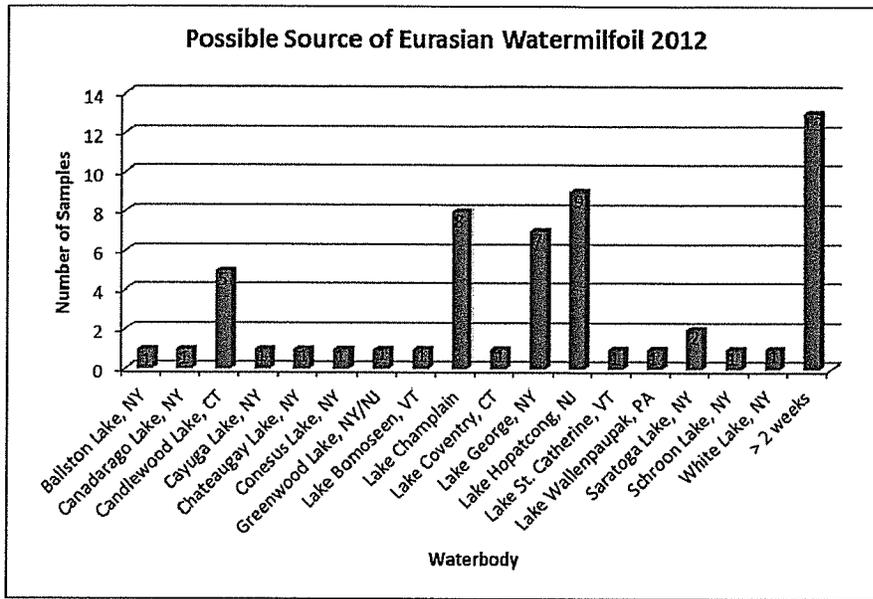


Figure 8: Possible sources of Eurasian watermilfoil for all five launches in 2012. There were 9 occurrences in which a lake steward removed Eurasian watermilfoil from a boat prior to launching that had been in Lake Hopatcong, NJ within 2 weeks prior.

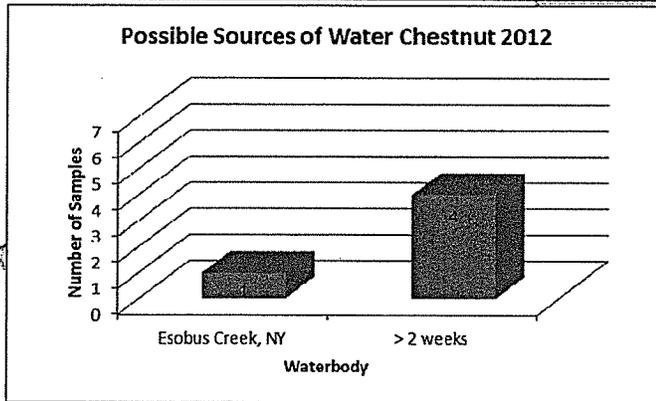


Figure 9: Possible sources of water chestnut for all five launches in 2012. Four samples of water chestnut came from boats that had not been in a waterbody within 2 weeks.

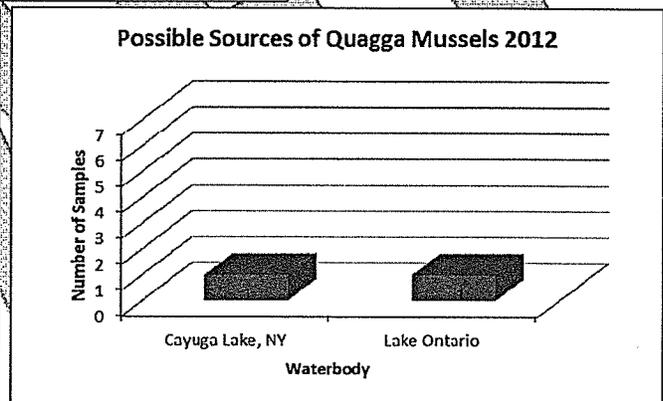


Figure 10: Possible sources of Quagga mussels for all five launches in 2012. One sample of Quagga mussels was found on a boat that had been in Cayuga Lake within 2 weeks prior and another sample from a boat that had been in Lake Ontario within 2 weeks prior.

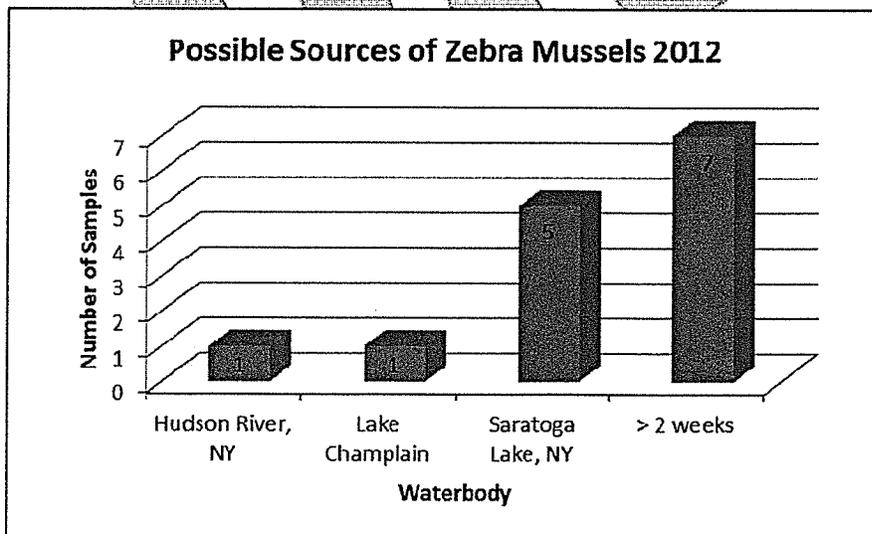


Figure 11: Possible sources of zebra mussels for all five launches in 2012. Seven samples of zebra mussels found on boats prior to launching had been out of water for at least 2 weeks.

Spread Prevention

Boaters were asked by the lake stewards at the launches what measures they take to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species prior to launching in Lake George. Spread prevention measures include washing the boat, draining the bilge, and inspecting the boat for plants and animals. The lake steward does not list possible spread prevention measures in order to elicit a response from the boater. Lake stewards recorded 4403, or 63%, boaters that reported having taken one or more spread prevention measures before launching their boat. Rogers Rock had 83%, the highest, of boaters at the launch that reported taking spread prevention methods (Figure 12). At Norowal Marina, 80% of boaters reported taking prevention steps, and 71% reported taking prevention steps at Dunham's Bay. The most common spread prevention step that 3,466 boaters reported taking was washing their boat, followed by 849 boaters who reported visually inspecting their boats (Figure 13).

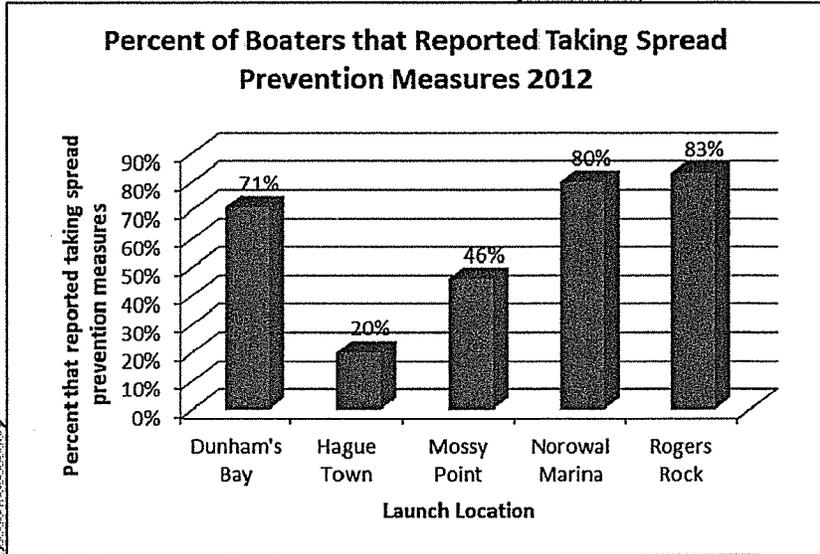


Figure 12: Percent of boaters that reported taking spread prevention measures for all launches in 2012. 83% of boaters at Rogers Rock reported taking at least one spread prevention measure.

The most common spread prevention step that 3,466 boaters reported taking was washing their boat, followed by 849 boaters who reported visually inspecting their boats (Figure 13).

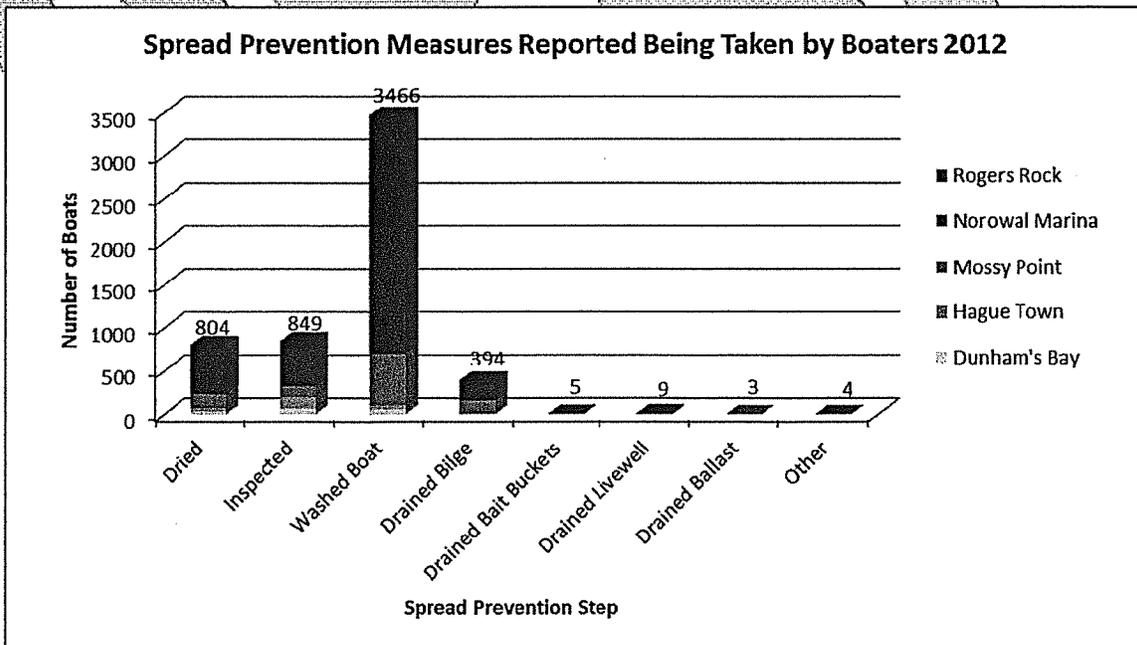


Figure 13: Summary of spread prevention steps reported being taken by boaters. The most common reported spread prevention measure by boaters at all launches was washing their boat.

Is the Boat Dry?

Lake stewards asked boaters if their boat was dry including bilges and livewells. A yes response was only recorded by the lake steward if the boater checked all compartments to make sure they were dry. Data was only recorded for launching boats as boats retrieving would not be dry. Lake stewards recorded 4,458 out of 5,362 launching boats (83%) as being dry and confirmed from the boater checking (Figure 14). Four percent of boaters reported that their boat was not dry, 2 percent were not asked the question due to time constraints or other reasons, 10 percent were asked the question but declined to check their bilges and livewells to confirm an answer, and 1 percent of the boaters drained their boat at the launch prior to launching once they determined it was not dry.

This was the first years asking this question. It was added in as an attempt to better ascertain whether a boat would meet a Clean-Drain-Dry requirement which is being considered for future aquatic invasive species programming on Lake George.

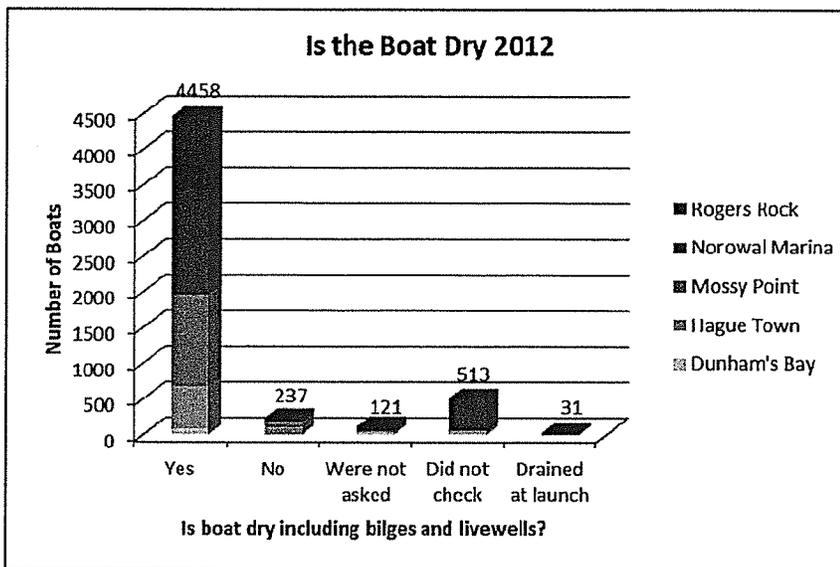


Figure 14: Summary of boats being dry for all launches in 2012. The majority of boaters checked their boats and confirmed that their boat was dry.

Previous Lake Steward Interaction

Lake stewards ask boaters whether or not they have previously interacted with a lake steward. This allows the steward to adjust their interpretive message to address the information that can be best utilized by the boater. Previous lake steward interaction differed by launch between 58-93%, with an 83% overall average during 2012 (Figure 15).

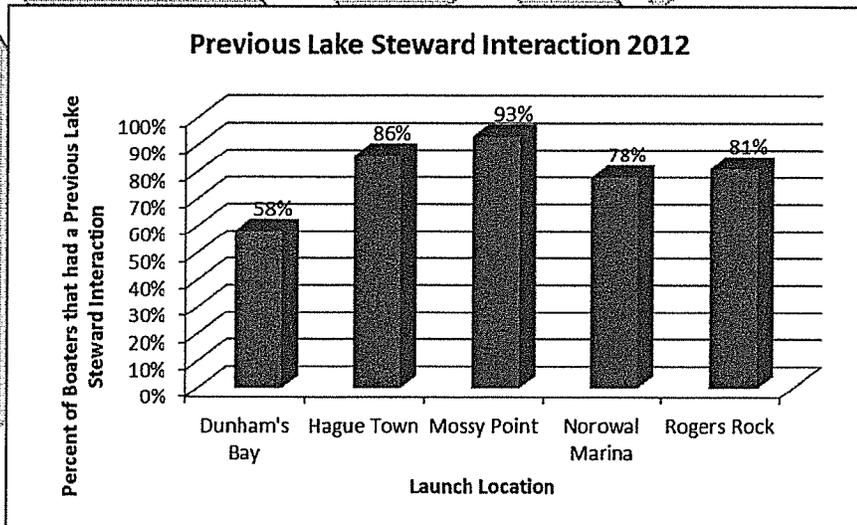


Figure 15: Percent of boaters that reported having had previous lake steward interactions for all launches in 2012. Mossy Point had the highest percentage of boaters that had had a previous lake steward interaction.

Summary of Recreation User Data

The lake stewards were able to collect additional information while at the launches working on invasive species spread prevention.

Vessel Types

Motorboats made up at least 75% of all vessels at all launches during 2012 (Figure 16). Rogers Rock had the largest variety of vessels recorded in terms of motorboats, sailboats, personal water crafts (PWCs), canoes, and kayaks. Motorboats, PWCs, and kayaks were launched at all launches. A total of 5,909 motorboats, 731 PWCs, 87 sailboats, 77 canoes, 167 kayaks, and 1 stand up paddleboard (SUP) were recorded.

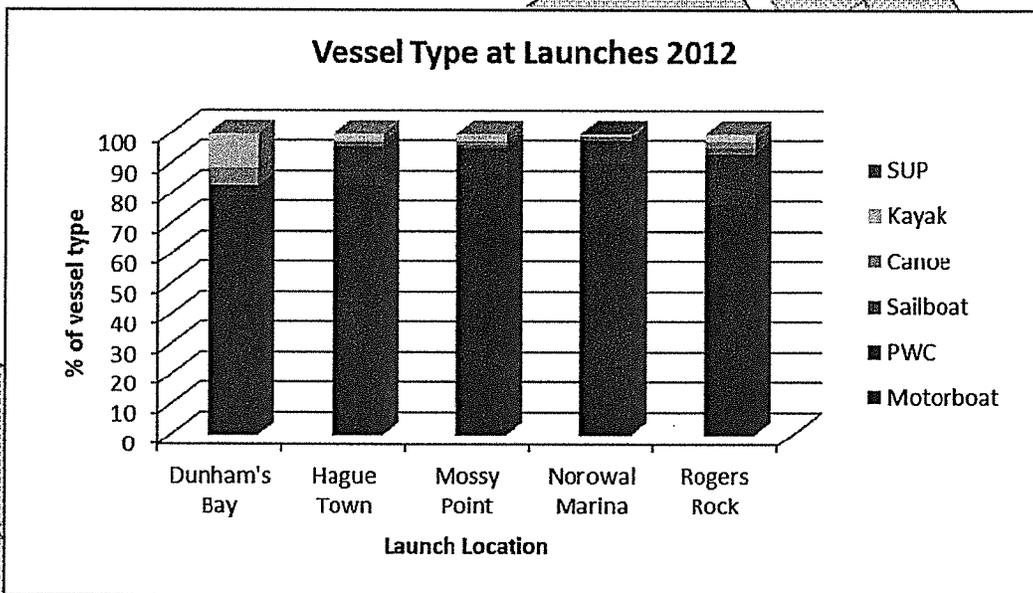


Figure 16: Summary of vessel types for all launches in 2012. Motorboats were the most common vessel type at all launches.

Motor Type

Lake stewards recorded if the motorboats had an inboard motor or an outboard motor. Of the 5,909 motorboats inspected, 57% were inboards. Mossy Point and Rogers Rock recorded more motorboats with outboard motors than inboard motors (Figure 17).

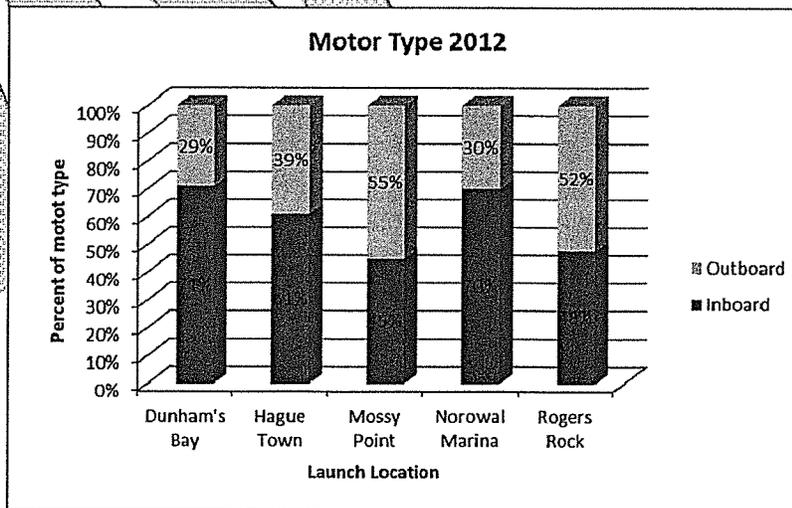


Figure 17: Summary of motor type for all launches in 2012. Mossy Point had the largest percentage (55%) of motorboats with outboard motors.

Fishing Boats

Lake stewards recorded whether the motorboats were fishing boats. The lake stewards did not ask the boater a question but used their judgment to determine whether or not the boater's use of their motorboat was to go fishing. Lake stewards determined that 16% of the motorboats inspected were fishing boats (Figure 18). Rogers Rock had the highest percentage of fishing boats at 31%. This season was the first time asking this question. It was added in an attempt to better understand the various users on the Lake to help inform discussions for future aquatic invasive species spread prevention measures on Lake George.

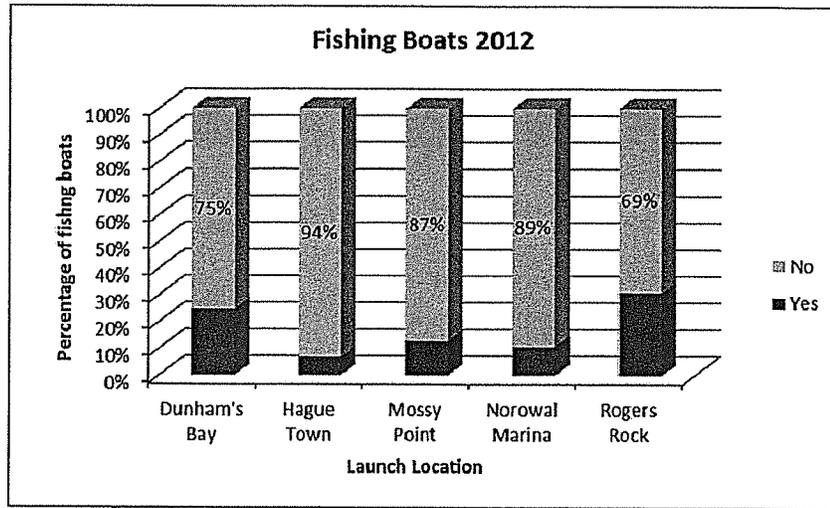


Figure 18: Percentage of fishing boats at all launches determined by lake steward in 2012. Hague Town Launch had the lowest percentage of fishing boats at 7%.

Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) Boat Registration

The Lake George Park Commission requires that on Lake George all vessels 18-feet or longer, or any vessel mechanically propelled by a motor 10 h.p. or greater, must be registered and display a LGPC registration decal. Lake stewards recorded whether or not vessels were in compliance. However, they did not enforce the regulation nor report individuals who were not in compliance.

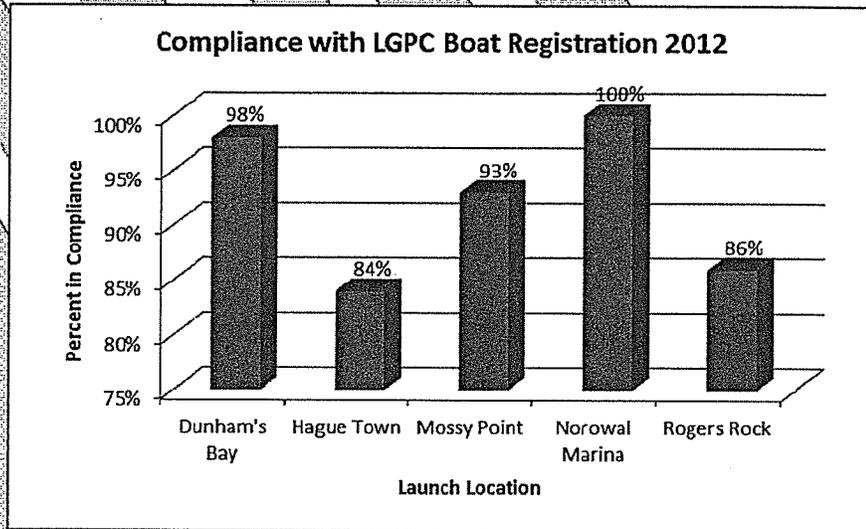


Figure 19: Percent compliance with LGPC boat registration at all launches in 2012. Norowal Marina had 100% compliance.

Overall compliance was 93% at all five launches during 2012 (Figure 19). The percentages of boat registrations varied between launches, from 84% compliance at Hague Town Launch to 100% compliance at Norowal Marina. The managers at Norowal Marina ensured 100% compliance by informing boaters at the launch to be aware of the requirement and selling boat registrations at the marina. At the other lake steward launches boaters do not have the opportunity to register their boat, therefore they would have had to register it prior to arriving at the launch.

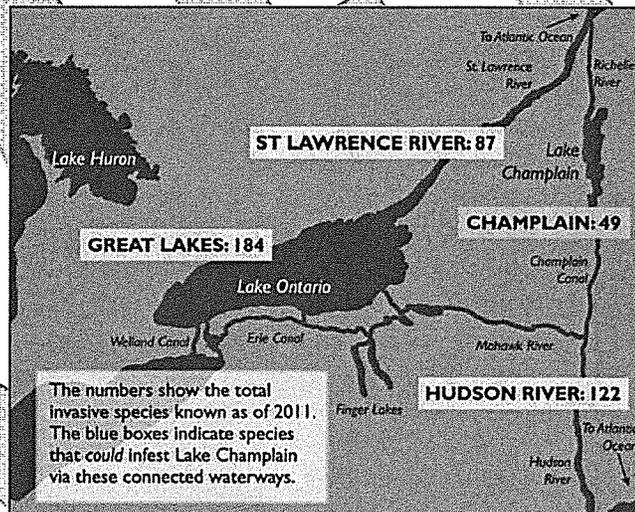
Group Size

Lake Stewards recorded the number of people using the boats that were inspected. This number can also be used to estimate how many people the lake stewards interacted with at the boat launches. Group sizes ranged from 1 to 10 people. In total, the lake stewards interacted with 17,954 people at all five launches during 2012.

Conclusion

From May 25th to September 28th of 2012, lake stewards inspected 6,972 boats and interacted with 17,954 boaters. Scientific literature has shown that recreational boats and their trailers are high risk vectors for transporting aquatic invasive species. A total of 155 waterbodies spanning 14 states were visited by boaters within two weeks prior to coming to Lake George during the 2012 field season. Nine lake stewards covering 5 launches allowed coverage to last in some cases for 12 hours a day and allowed more samples to be taken, which lead to an improvement in invasive species protection for Lake George for the 2012 season.

Based on the data collected, it appears that the three waterbodies that pose the largest threat to Lake George are Lake Champlain, the Hudson River, and Saratoga Lake. The Hudson River and Lake Champlain had the greatest boat counts coming to Lake George, and also have large numbers of invasive species. Lake Champlain is a constant invasive species threat because of its close proximity to Lake George and the high number of boaters who launch in Lake Champlain and Lake George within a two week period.



DATA SOURCE: UVM, Lake Champlain Sea Grant, Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory, Lafontaine and Costan 2002, and Strayer 2012.

Although only two percent of boats were found to have an invasive species sample, 13% of boats that launched were in a waterbody other than Lake George two weeks prior to Lake George. These boats have the potential to introduce new invasive species to the lake. 189 boats had samples removed before entering or when leaving Lake George from all five launches combined. From the 189 boats, 272 samples were removed and 131 were found to be an invasive species making 48% of all samples removed invasive. Six different species of invasive species were identified out of the samples: Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, water chestnut, zebra mussels, quagga mussels, and spiny water flea.

Continuing this education and spread prevention program is critical to protecting Lake George from invasive species. Prevention is the most cost-effective approach to fighting invasive species. Once invasives have established in a lake, eradication is unlikely and costly.