

Aquatic Invasive Species and Aquatic Nuisance Control Program Overview¹

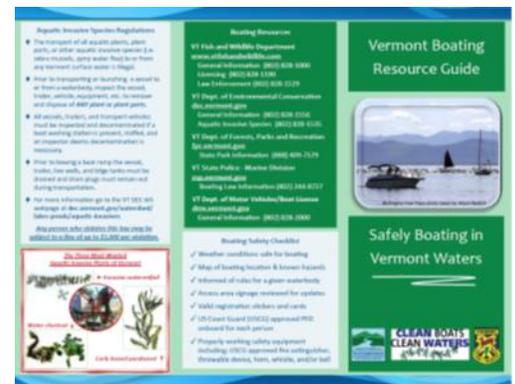
To reduce and prevent the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of aquatic invasive and nuisance species to protect and improve water quality, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, and lake ecosystem functions.

Respond to Aquatic Nuisance Concerns

- Implement Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) efforts to monitor the threat of new species.
- Partner with multi-agencies throughout Vermont and New England to pilot innovative new approaches to monitor for AIS threats. These include:
 - UVM Spatial Analysis Lab - Water Chestnut Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drone) Surveys
 - BioBase Mapping Project using sonar to map 60 lakes and ponds in Vermont.
 - Partner in a multi-state effort for Environmental DNA pilot studies in Northeast Regional Lakes for invasive invertebrates and cyanobacteria.
 - Develop in-house a “Lakes at Risk of Infestation” map to protect and prioritize efforts for lakes that are vulnerable to new aquatic invasive species threats.

Spread Prevention

- Support Boat Greeter Programs at 29 waterbodies (in 2018 there were 25,495 inspections and 613 blocked threats). Six watercraft decontamination stations available.
- Partner with the VTF&W to inform boaters of Act 67 requirements, to disseminate AIS information, and to enforce AIS regulations.
- Maintain and upgrade “Clean, Drain, Dry” signs at public boat access points informing access users of new regulations.
- Coordinate and lead Vermont Invasive Patroller (VIP) workshops.



Control and Management

- Conduct water chestnut management efforts in Lake Champlain Basin, removing more than 1,000 tons of water chestnut per year.
- Provide technical support for the development of long-range management plans and manage the Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit Program.



Funding and Grants²

- Receive federal funds from ACOE, USFWS, and LCBP to support the program, as well as grants to municipalities.
- Oversee and administer funds from the MBR and ACOE to support Aquatic Nuisance Control grant funds: 46 aquatic nuisance control projects were funded in 2018, and 68 were funded for the 2019 field season.

Staff Support

- During the 2019 field season, one FTE, three seasonal AIS technicians, and one intern provide services to implement the AIS/ANC Program. ANC Permits are managed by the Lakes & Ponds Regulatory Team.

¹ Testimony provided to the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee, 5/9/2019, by DEC Commissioner Emily Boedecker.

² ACOE-Army Corps of Engineers; USFWS-US Fish & Wildlife Services; LCBP-Lake Champlain Basin Program; MBR-Motor Boat Registration

Aquatic Invasive Species and Aquatic Nuisance Control Program Budget

FY20 AIS Budget		FY19 AIS Budget	
Income		Income	
MBR Projected FY20 Revenue	450,000	MBR Projected FY19 Revenue	450,000
MBR Existing Cash Balance	193,023	MBR Existing Cash Balance	119,017
ACOE Contract	450,000	ACOE Contract	450,000
Grant Contracts (Federal Grants)	156,000	Grant Contracts (Federal Grants)	125,000
General Fund	100,691	General Fund	95,614
Total Income	1,349,714	Total Income	1,239,631
Expense		Expense	
Staff Positions	241,312	Staff Positions	240,818
Operating Costs	101,402	Operating Costs	66,071
Contracts	527,000	Contracts	492,242
Grants in Aid (Direct Service)	480,000	Grants in Aid (Direct Service)	440,500
Total Expense	1,349,714	Total Expense	1,239,631

