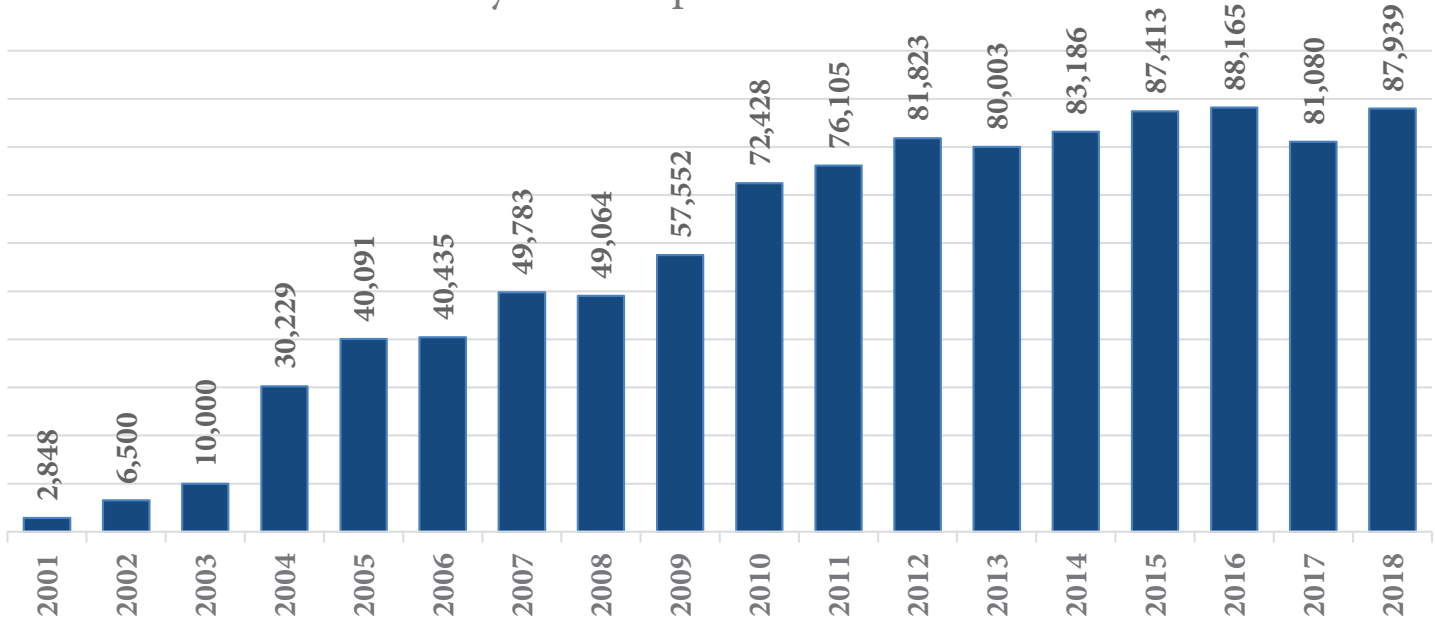


## Courtesy Boat Inspections Annual Totals



<b>CBI statistics</b>	2017	2018
Infested lakes with inspections	15	16
Water bodies with inspections	122	123
Total plants found	3622	3532
Total invasive plants found	77	95
Invasive plants on entering boats	6	18
Invasive plants on leaving boats	71	77
Total inspectors	653	592
Inspection hours	44,415	43,406
Boats with sticker	56,222	61,484
Participating lake association organizations	50	53
Participating Bass Clubs	48	41
<i>Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection</i>		

Confirmed 'saves' 2018	Boat direction	Invasive plant
<b>Panther Pond, Raymond</b>	1 entering	Variable milfoil
<b>Sebago Cove, Naples</b>	7 leaving	Variable milfoil
<b>Lake Arrowhead, Waterboro</b>	3 entering 54 leaving	Variable milfoil
<b>Messalonskee Lake, Oakland</b>	1 entering 6 leaving	Variable milfoil
<b>Messalonskee Lake, Oakland</b>	1 entering	Eurasian milfoil
<b>Messalonskee Lake, Sidney</b>	1 entering 7 leaving	Variable milfoil
<b>Pleasant Pond, Litchfield</b>	1 leaving	Variable milfoil
<b>Pennessewassee Lake</b>	3 entering	Eurasian milfoil, Zebra Mussel, and Variable milfoil
<b>Trickey Pond, Naples</b>	1 entering	Eurasian milfoil
<b>Thompson Lake, Oxford</b>	1 entering	Variable milfoil
<b>Songo River, Naples</b>	4 entering 3 leaving	Variable milfoil
<b>Sebago Lake, State Park</b>	3 leaving	Variable milfoil
<b>Toddy Pond,</b>	1 entering	Eurasian milfoil
<b>Great East Lake, Acton</b>	1 entering	Variable milfoil
<b>Long Lake, Harrison</b>	1 entering	Eurasian milfoil

# Maine DEP News from the 2018 Season

## Invasive Aquatic Plants Report Card

Prior to 2018, no invasive plants were known to be in 5,500-acre Cobbosseecontee (Cobbossee) Lake. Unfortunately, Cobbossee now has not one but two invasive aquatic plant species. Surveyors from the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW) discovered an incipient population of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, EWM) in July 2018. During removal of EWM in August 2018, DEP staff found European frog's-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*), the first known population of this plant in Maine.

At the time, the discovery of EWM in Cobbossee became only the second known EWM population in the state (see below for mention of the third). With staff assistance from the FOCW and the Cobbossee Watershed District, DEP conducted weekly dives into the fall to survey for and manually remove scattered EWM plants. Based on results of 2018 plant surveys of the lake by FOCW, the EWM infestation is confined to a small cove in the north end of the lake. DEP and the lake groups resume the rapid response in 2019.

The European frog's-bit is more widely established than EWM in Cobbossee, found along several protected shorelines including islands. Surveys in 2018 suggest that the most extensive growth of frog's-bit is in a tributary at the northeast end of the lake. DEP is grateful to a dozen lake residents who mobilized for three days of manual removal in this area of dense growth. Their catch: nine pickup loads of European frog's bit deposited high and dry away from the lake, an outstanding start toward managing this infestation.

The third new infestation in 2018 is EWM in a small pond with no public access in south-coastal Maine. Unfortunately, the EWM is well-established in this new location. DEP has discussed spread prevention and plant management with shorefront residents.

## **Courtesy Boat Inspectors Make Notable Saves**

A save occurs when a Maine boat inspector finds an invasive plant on a boat or associated equipment and removes the plant prior to launching into or after removal from a water body. Maine boat inspectors make saves each year but 2018 provided four Eurasian water-milfoil

saves of note.

The previous water bodies recorded by the boat inspector for these four saves were Lake Champlain, Candlewood Lake (CT), Lake Mendota (Madison, WI!) and the St. Lawrence River.

The Champlain save was on a boat returning home to Long Lake in Harrison. An experienced Lakes Environmental Association inspector was fortunately working that day and identified the plant. It's not surprising that a fragment could remain viable from the Champlain Valley or, for that matter, a Connecticut Lake to Maine. But the Lake Mendota, Wisconsin save proves that plants (and other organisms) can move longer distances than we might expect. The Mendota EWM was partly dried, mixed with other species, and caught up in a sailboat trailer. After immersing the plant material in water, the EWM fragment was easily identified and appeared to be viable.

Finally, the discovery of EWM on a boat entering Penesseewassee Lake in Norway reminds us of the threat of hitchhiking organisms. The plant was intercepted by a Lakes Association of Norway (LAON) inspector. Upon close inspection of the intercepted plant, DEP staff made an additional alarming discovery: an attached zebra mussel. The inspection information collected by LAON indicated the boat had been in the St. Lawrence River – host to non-native mussels. While the water chemistry of western Maine lakes is generally not favorable to zebra mussel, the hitchhiking mussel raises the stakes for Courtesy Boat Inspection Programs like the one run by LAON.

These saves highlight the continued potential for infestation from waters far beyond Maine's border in addition to the spread threat from infested waters within Maine.

## **Some Good News**

The DEP can report encouraging management results on two infested waterbodies: Damariscotta Lake in Jefferson (*Hydrilla verticillata*, hydrilla) and West Pond in Parsonsfield (*Potamogeton crispus*, curly-leaf pondweed).

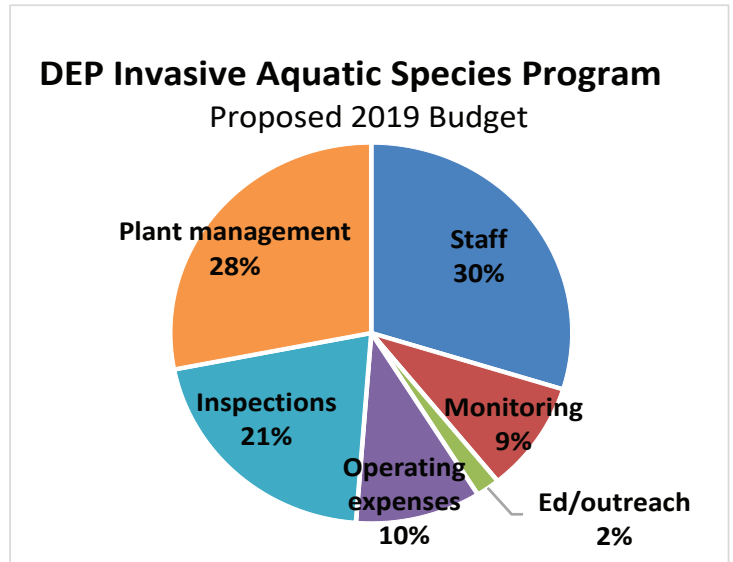
Hydrilla was discovered in 4,686-acre Damariscotta Lake in 2009. Maine DEP's initial response included manual

removal, deployment of benthic barriers and herbicide treatment to knock-back the population. Over the last several years, the local group Midcoast Conservancy and DEP have teamed-up to monitor and manually remove any remnant hydrilla found. For the second year, biweekly surveys in 2018 found no hydrilla in Damariscotta Lake.

Curly-leaf pondweed was confirmed in 167-acre West Pond in 2004. Much of the pond is suitable habitat for this invasive plant and there were several large, dense patches when first discovered. Under the dedicated management of one West Pond Association (WPA) member, the infestation has been managed using Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH). In addition to their own DASH, the WPA used an outside DASH contractor past the last three seasons. This combined approach has significantly reduced the volume of plant

material harvested. A dive tow survey in October 2018 to assess new growth showed promised for continued reduction of the plant in 2019.

FMI: email [milfoil@maine.gov](mailto:milfoil@maine.gov) or visit <http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/>



## Total milfoil sticker sales and revenue, 2002-2018

Calendar Year	Resident	Amount	Non-resident	Amount	Grand Total	DIFW Share	DEP Share
2002	100,049	\$900,441	9,814	\$186,466	\$1,086,907	\$434,763	\$652,144
2003	94,451	\$850,059	9,135	\$173,565	\$1,023,624	\$409,450	\$614,174
2004	96,713	\$870,417	9,260	\$175,940	\$1,046,357	\$418,543	\$627,814
2005	98,393	\$885,537	10,239	\$194,541	\$1,080,078	\$432,031	\$648,047
2006	99,947	\$899,523	10,449	\$198,531	\$1,098,054	\$439,222	\$658,832
2007	98,255	\$884,295	11,666	\$221,654	\$1,105,949	\$442,380	\$663,569
2008	94,451	\$944,510	11,190	\$212,610	\$1,157,120	\$462,848	\$694,272
2009	94,568	\$945,680	11,052	\$209,988	\$1,155,668	\$462,267	\$693,401
2010	97,250	\$972,500	11,096	\$210,824	\$1,183,324	\$473,330	\$709,994
2011	92,675	\$926,750	10,203	\$193,857	\$1,120,607	\$448,243	\$672,364
2012	93,477	\$934,770	10,108	\$192,052	\$1,126,822	\$450,729	\$676,093
2013	93,945	\$939,450	9,402	\$178,638	\$1,118,088	\$447,235	\$670,853
*2014	92,764	\$927,640	10,171	\$193,249	\$1,120,889	\$251,142	\$869,747
2015	93,887	\$938,870	10,017	\$190,323	\$1,129,193	\$225,839	\$903,354
2016	97,243	\$972,430	10,121	\$192,299	\$1,164,729	\$232,946	\$931,783
2017	95,926	\$959,260	9,574	\$181,906	\$1,141,166	\$228,233	\$912,933
2018	97,530	\$975,300	9,548	\$181,412	\$1,156,712	\$231,342	\$925,370
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,631,525</b>	<b>\$15,727,442</b>	<b>173,045</b>	<b>\$3,287,855</b>	<b>\$19,015,297</b>	<b>\$6,490,545</b>	<b>\$12,524,752</b>

Source: Maine Natural Resources Services Center. Revenues collected January 1 - December 31.

\*DEP's share increased and DIFW's decreased in 2014 due to the revenue distribution change approved by the Maine Legislature



# DIFW's invasive species program

In 2018, Maine Game Wardens worked approximately 20,000 hours doing recreational boating enforcement. These hours included education, maintenance, court time preparation, ramp checks and actual hours on the water checking boats. Game wardens reported almost 9,000 hours on the water enforcing boating rules and regulations. Game Wardens checked approximately 19,500 boats.

For milfoil, the stats break down to 322 registration violations and 134 milfoil sticker violations. This year wardens recorded how many times that they worked with courtesy boat inspectors (CBI). In our records management system, we had almost 40 recorded details where a warden intentionally set out that day to work with a CBI. Of course, this does not count the times a warden just stopped by or spent time with a courtesy boat inspector.

Education remains a large part of how the enforcement branch of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife works to stop the spread of invasive aquatic plants. Warden Pete Herring who is assigned to patrol Sebago Lake, has spent many hours and many different times working with the CBI program in and around the Sebago Lake area. "People still are learning about milfoil", Herring went on to say. Warden Herring talked about attending a recent out-of-state fishing and outdoor sports show in Suffern, New York. Warden Herring seized the opportunity to speak directly with several professional bass anglers. One of the topics at the sports show was the large bass tournament on Sebago Lake scheduled for September 2019. Warden Herring spoke with them at length regarding Maine law requiring them to purchase a lake and river protection sticker prior to launching their boats. Warden Herring was surprised when many of them questioned him regarding the need for the sticker and what milfoil was. Warden Herring stated, "This is also true on a local level when dealing with offenders". "First the offenders, who claim not to know about it, become very upset after receiving a summons for not having the sticker after doing what they felt was "everything by the book". Warden Herring went on to talk about our ongoing education efforts with the court systems as well. "We need to contin-

ue to push the education piece with not only the boaters but the court systems also".

Adam Gormely is a Lieutenant with the Maine Warden Service and oversees the operations of Division A Warden Service, centered around Sebago Lake extending up into Oxford County. Lt. Gormely stated that the Maine Warden Service will again be partnering with the CBI program for this upcoming season and encourages members of the CBI program to reach out to the wardens in his or her area. Any of the regional offices listed on our web site can let members of the CBI program know which warden is assigned to the lake they are protecting.

