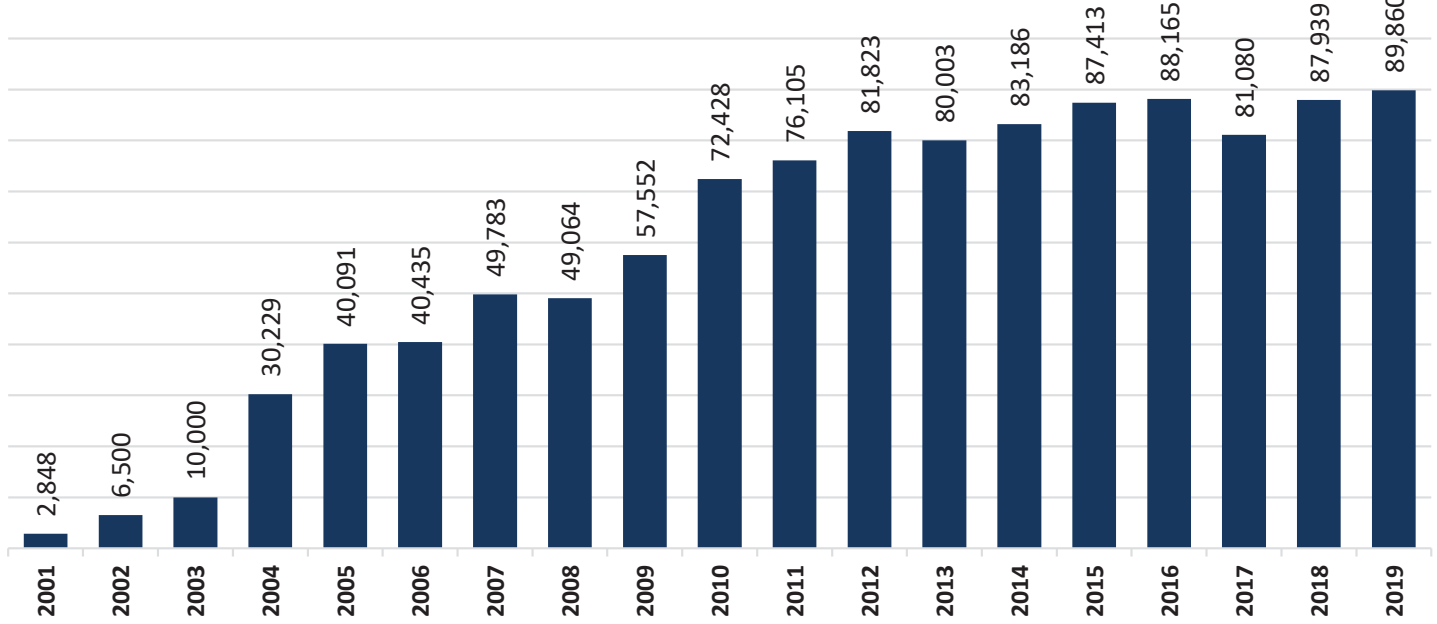
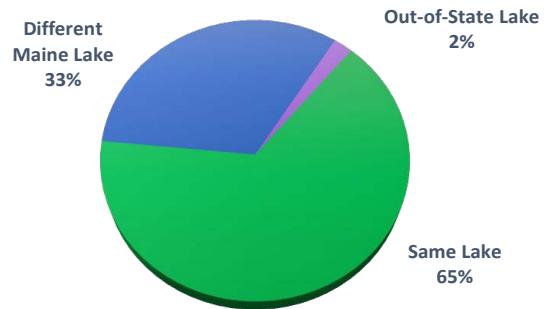


Courtesy Boat Inspections Annual Totals



CBI statistics	2018	2019
Infested lakes with inspections	16	15
Waterbodies with inspections	123	130
Total plants found	3532	2901
Total invasive plants found	95	74
Invasive plants on entering boats	18	13
Invasive plants on leaving boats	77	61
Total inspectors	592	620
Inspection hours	43,406	44,840
Boats with sticker	61,484	62,103
Participating lake association organizations	53	56
Participating Bass Clubs	41	51
<i>Source: Maine Department of Environmental Protection</i>		

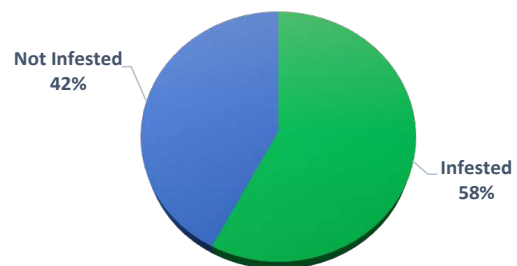
Previous Waterbody Visited Maine vs Out of State



Responses to Previous Waterbody Visited (PWV) question in 2019 are represented in the pie charts. Upper chart shows that 2% of the PWV were out-of-state lakes and the rest were Maine lakes, of which 65% were the same lake where the inspection occurred.

Lower chart shows that, of the 1,077 Previous Waterbody Visited identified as being from out-of-state, the majority were infested waters.

Previous Waterbody Visited from Out-of-State



Maine DEP News from the 2019 Season

Late Season Discoveries

We know it all too well: late season finds of invasive aquatic plant infestations. It happened again in 2019 with September finds of curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and variable-leaved water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*).

A Unity College student kayaking on an impounded portion of the Kennebec River found both curly-leaf pondweed and variable-leaved water-milfoil. Her mission that day wasn't to survey for plants but, based on previous plant survey work with a lake association, she knew right away these plants looked suspicious. DEP subsequently surveyed a portion of the impoundment and arranged for two days of manual removal of the pondweed in October 2019. Additional surveying is planned for 2020 to determine the extent of curly-leaf pondweed in the impoundment. The variable-leaved water-milfoil, previously identified in an upstream dammed tributary, was confirmed via genetic analysis and is likely growing throughout this portion of the river.

A Maine Game Warden with a camp on Big Lake in interior Washington County, a relatively remote area of the state, discovered a suspicious milfoil that turned out to be variable-leaved water-milfoil. This population of invasive milfoil is 95 miles east of the nearest known infestation in Maine. Big Lake itself is 10,444 acres but is part of interconnected waterbodies, including the St. Croix River flowage, totaling 17,619 acres and bordering New Brunswick.



Photo: Lake Stewards of Maine

Variable-leaf milfoil on Big Lake through a “trunk” scope.

Confirmation of this plant in interior Washington County heightens the need for increased spread prevention and surveying efforts in this part of the state. Initial surveying in October 2019 included staff from DEP, Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM), the Maine Warden Service and the Passamaquoddy Tribe. Plans for 2020 include meetings with and plant survey trainings for local residents and guides in March and June. DEP and LSM will coordinate spread prevention and surveying efforts with Downeast Lakes Land Trust. A concerted effort to survey most of this system in 2020 will be organized by Lake Stewards of Maine.

Management of Existing Infestations

Twenty-two grants totaling \$254,404 were awarded by DEP to lake groups working to manage infestations in 2019. These locally-managed programs target variable-leaved water-milfoil plus one working to reduce growth of curly-leaf pondweed and one managing hydrilla. Each grantee contributes significant cash and volunteer match to the removal effort.

Rapid response continued in 2019 to the 2018 discoveries of Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*, EWM) and European frog's-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) on Cobbossee Lake in Winthrop and surrounding towns. DEP and local lake/watershed groups resumed weekly diver manual removal in June 2019. Despite the frequent removal efforts, scattered plants were found at each visit. Given the apparent early stage of infestation, limited distribution of the plant and the difficulty in eliminating all plants with manual removal, Maine DEP proceeded with a 4-acre application of the herbicide PROcellacor on July 22, 2019. No EWM was found during several dive surveys after the treatment into fall 2019. The area will be carefully monitored in 2020.

Staff of the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed and volunteers from the Cobbossee Yacht Club and Lake Association continued in 2019 to manually remove areas of European frog's-bit from Cobbossee Lake.

DEP reported in 2018 another infestation of EWM in a 28-acre pond with no public access in coastal Maine.

Landowners there hired a diver-assisted suction harvest contractor to perform limited plant removal in late October 2019. Eurasian water-milfoil is well-established in the pond.

Finally, Maine DEP has collaborated for several years with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and the Three Ponds Protective Association to manage brittle waternymph (*Najas minor*) in an impoundment of the Salmon Falls River. Seed-laden fragments of this plant spread prolifically within a water body and consumed seeds can pass through the digestive tract of waterfowl, aiding spread to other water bodies. Eradication of this infestation is not likely but meaningful suppression is the goal to reduce spread risk in the downstream Salmon Falls River and beyond.

Legislative Session in 2019

The dedicated funding mechanism for invasive species work on inland waters, passed by the Maine Legislature in 2001, started generating revenue to DEP and DIFW in 2002. The original annual fees on motorized boats on inland waters, \$10 for Maine-registered and \$20 for out-of-state-registered watercraft, had remained the same through the 2019 boating season. The fees were increased for the first time during the 2019 legislative session. Starting in 2020, operators of Maine-registered boats will pay \$15 annually. Operators of out-of-state-registered watercraft will pay \$35 starting in 2020 and \$45 starting in 2022.

A bill to require draining water from boat bilges, live wells and ballast tanks, and to remove drain plugs and open valves during overland transport, was voted ought not to pass by the legislative committee hearing the bill. At least one committee member was concerned that the bill would have a detrimental impact on operations by commercial bait collectors. This or a similar bill may be re-introduced in the next regular legislative session (2021).



Courtesy Boat Inspections

Maine DEP awarded grants for boat inspection programs totaling \$200,835. Sixty-six grants were awarded to lake and watershed organizations. At last count, 89,860 inspections were conducted in 2019 – a new record for Maine’s CBI Program. In July of 2019 a jet ski coming from the Mystic River in Massachusetts came out the Sebago Lake State Park boat launch. The CBI on duty, after a brief look under the jet ski, saw a large clump of aquatic plants hanging out of the intake area. She removed as much as she could and the jet ski sped off in to the lake. The mass of plants was identified as half hornwort and half Eurasian Watermilfoil. This was a great “save” but also another disappointing reminder that many boaters are not checking their own watercrafts.



DIFW's invasive species program

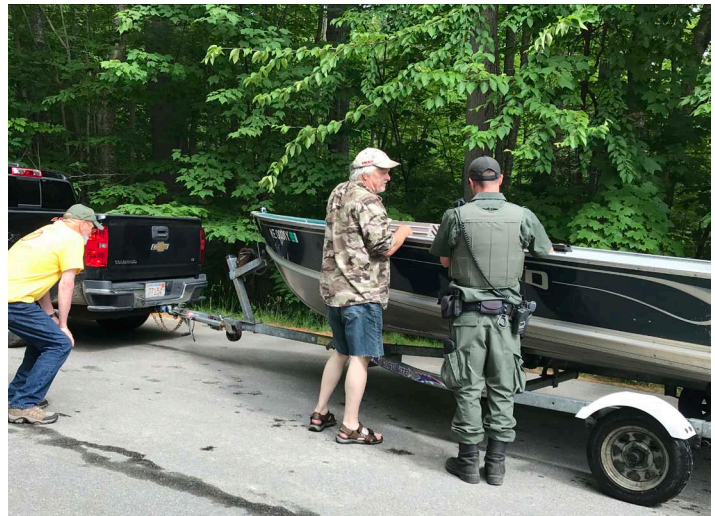
In 2019, Maine Game Wardens worked approximately 21,450 hours doing recreational boating enforcement. These hours included education, maintenance, court time preparation, ramp checks and actual hours on the water checking boats. Game wardens reported almost 9,000 hours on the water enforcing boating rules and regulations. Game Wardens checked approximately 22,181 boats.

For milfoil, the stats break down to 400 registration violations and 165 milfoil sticker violations. As part of what is expected, wardens are continuing to seek out CBI staff to introduce themselves and help inspect watercraft to stop the spread of invasive species. This year's recorded events were similar to last year's, showing 42 recorded meetings. Of course, this does not count the times a warden just stopped by or spent time with a courtesy boat inspector.

One of the topics that was mentioned last year was the large bass tournament on Sebago Lake that took place in September 2019. Warden Herring worked tirelessly during this derby both in the pre stages as well as during the derby to ensure boats were inspected. During the event Warden Herring even stopped the line of boats to ensure one boat was totally cleaned before entering the water.



Warden Herring noted one critical inspection point is the trailer. "Trailer bunks on these bass boats need to be inspected", Herring said. As proof to his argument, Warden Herring was able to remove confirmed invasive hydrilla from the bunk of a boat from Georgia ultimately



preventing the introduction into Sebago Lake.

"We need to continue training boaters on what to look for and how to make sure both their boats and trailers are clean", Herring reported.

Lieutenant Adam Gormely with the Maine Warden Service remains confident that a continued partnership with the dedicated CBI staff and the Maine Warden Service will continue to build on the educational base that has been laid down. Lt. Gormely encourages members of the CBI program to reach out to the wardens in his or her area. If you are unsure who your local warden is, you can call any of our divisional headquarters to find out how to talk with your local warden and set up a time to inspect together. The work is still there to do, and we believe that many hands will help ensure it gets done.

Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
Milfoil Account Expenditures FY 2019
Total Budget: \$373,415

