

Vermont Public Access Greeter Program

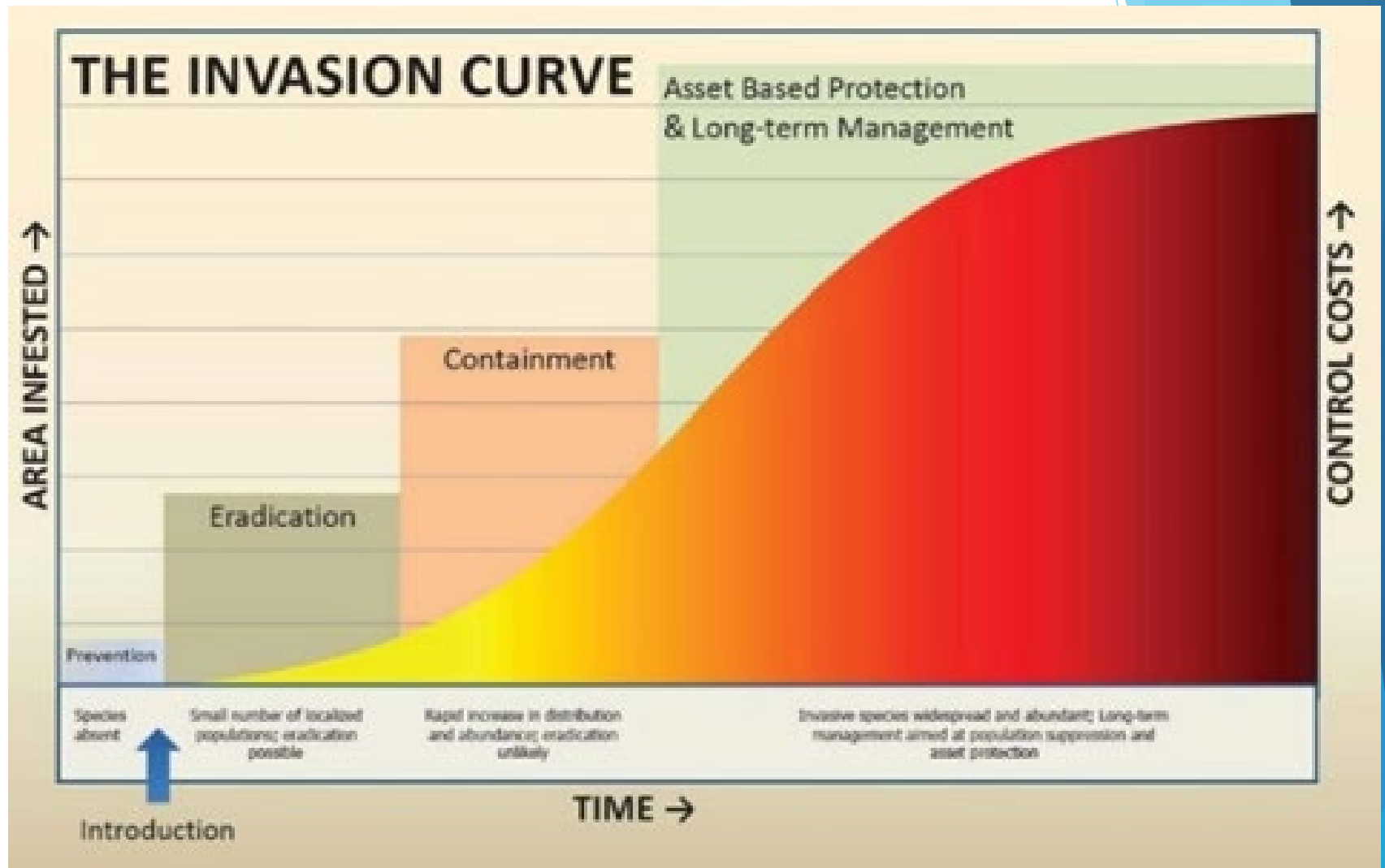


Greeter Program Goals

- ▶ To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by establishing a well-trained network of watercraft access greeters who:
- ▶ Educate recreational boaters about the harmful effects of invasive species and what they can do to help prevent spread.
- ▶ Provide watercraft inspections and decontaminations to help boaters “do the right thing” to prevent the spread of AIS.
- ▶ **STOP** new invasive species introductions



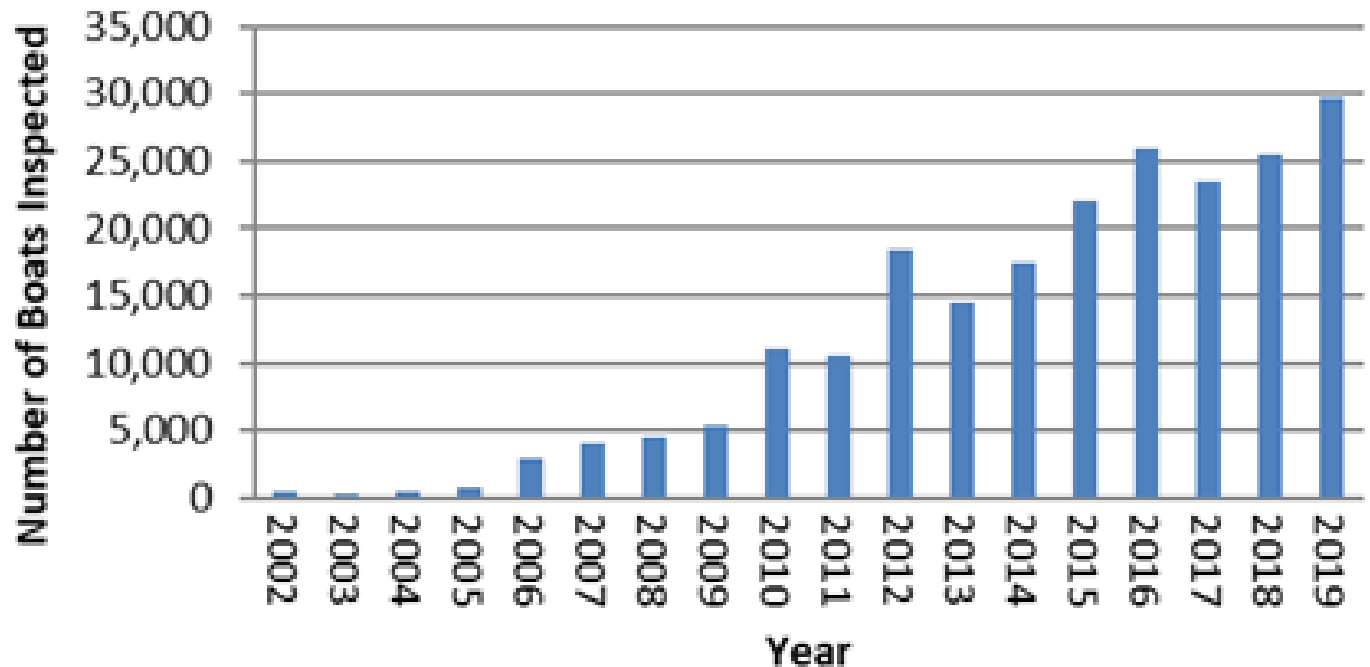
Greeter Program Goals



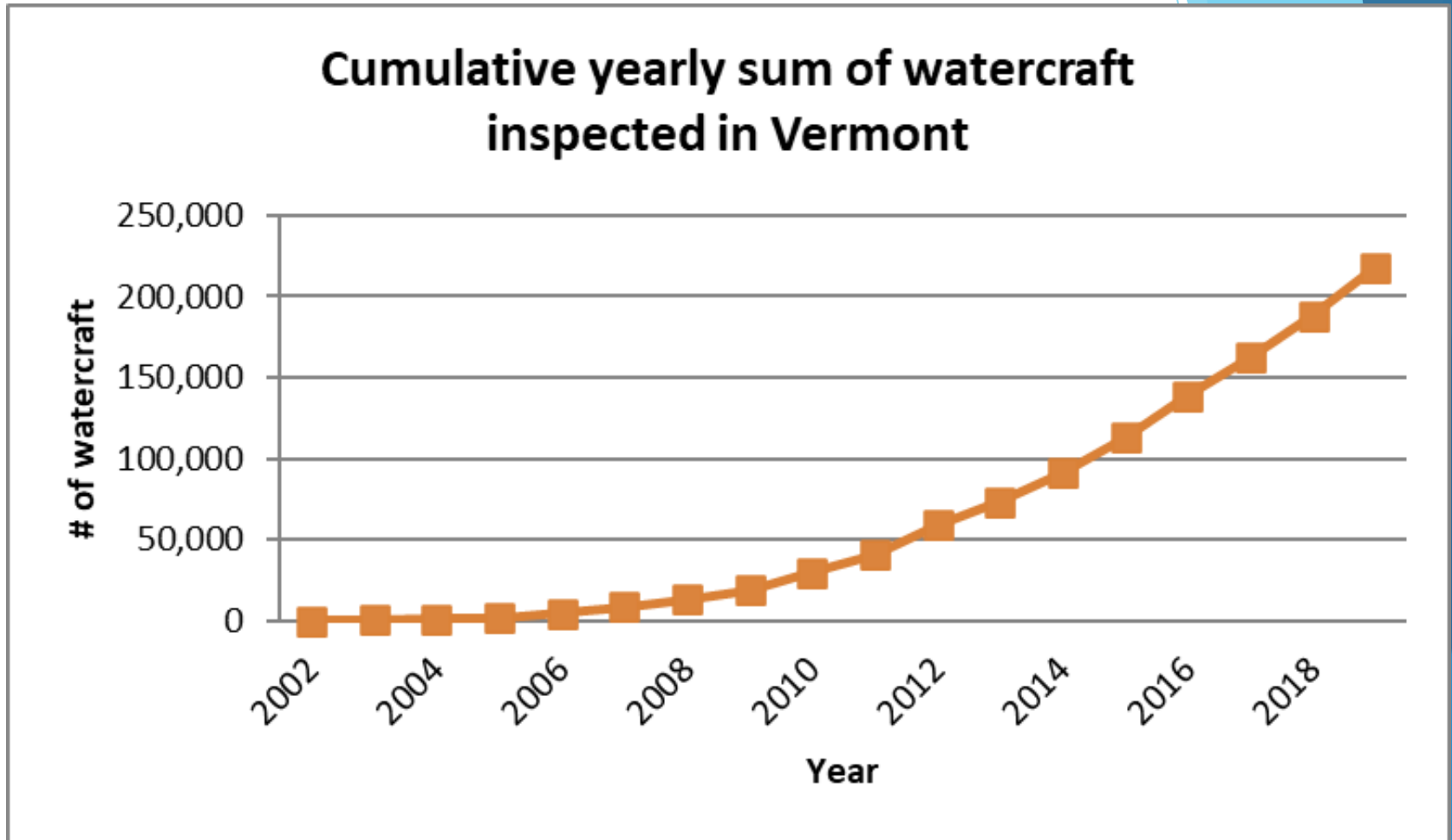
Greeter Program Historic Data

During 2019, 29,734 watercraft were inspected by greeter programs statewide.

Number of Watercraft Inspected Per Year in Vermont



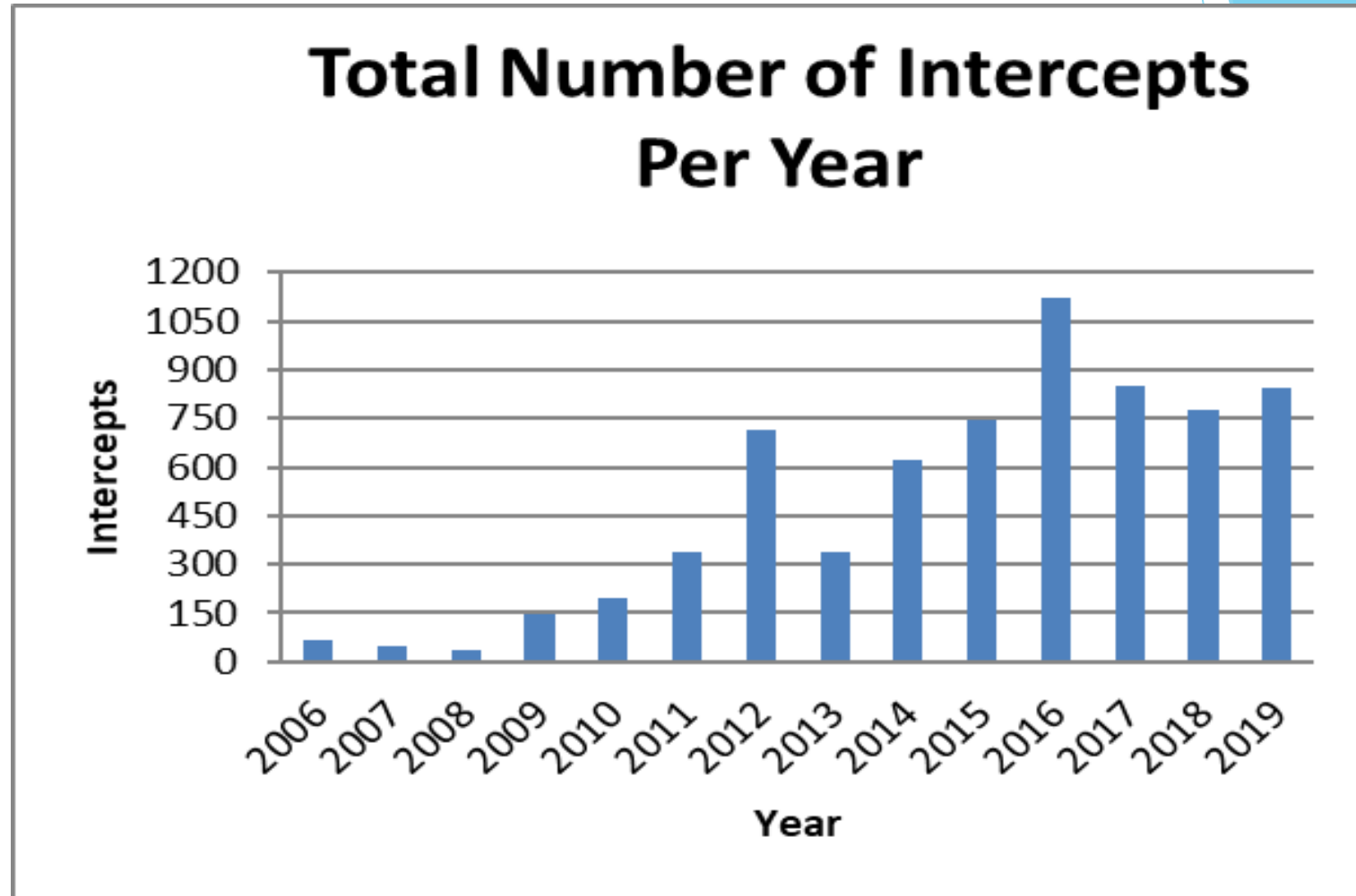
Greeter Program Historic Data



As of 2019, a total of 217,735 watercraft have been inspected by Vermont public access greeter programs.

Greeter Program Historic Data

Intercepts are considered as instances in which plant material or animals are removed before a watercraft is launched or after it is retrieved. In 2019, 843 of total intercepts were recorded as instances of invasive species.



Public Access Greeter Duties

Daily Equipment Needs

- Tablet with Survey123 app or Greeter Program Datasheet
- Greeter program t-shirt
- “Greeter on duty” sandwich board
- Personal safety materials (sunblock, insect repellent, raingear, shelter, **WATER!!**)
- Informational materials (rack cards, watch cards, etc.)
- Sponge
- Sealable plastic bags (for sample submission)
- Cell phone/camera (optional; but helpful for specimen ID)
- Adjustable wrench (for boat plug removal)



Exotic Curlyleaf Hairyweed

Exotic Hydrilla

Native Common Bladder

Native Coonail

Exotic Water Chestnut

Native Watermilfoil

Exotic Egeria

Native Watermilfoil

Exotic Variable watermilfoil

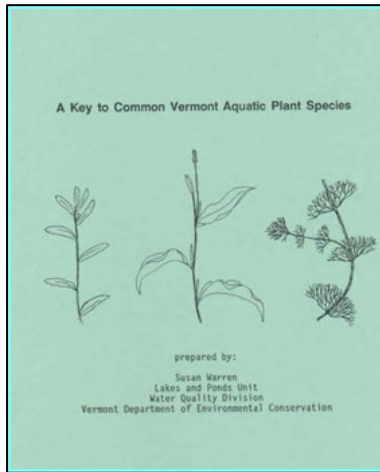
Native Nuttall's waterweed

Exotic Equisetum

Native Pondweed

Native Bladderwort

VERMONT Aquatic Invasive Species Management Program
 802.245.3777 www.fisheriesquality.org
 Vermont Department of Fishery Management, 100 North Main Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

[illegible]

Aquatic Specimen Submission Form

Keep the sample in a cool place until it is mailed, then follow the directions below until this completed form with the sample (identify) is received at the address below. Questions? Call 800-828-1115.

ATTN: Plant Sample, VTDEC – Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis J, Montpelier, VT 05620-3022.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
E-mail Address: _____

Are you a: ☐ VIP ☐ Greeter ☐ Other Waterbody: _____ Town: _____

If a Greeter, was this sample collected during a boat inspection? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Page, number of previously visited water body: _____

For description of the location of collection: _____

Specimen Species ID: _____ Date Collected: _____

Have you contacted VTDEC? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, with whom did you speak: _____

Sample Packaging Directions:

- Please wrap a representative piece (collect 8 – 12 inches of a plant specimen, including any flowers or fruit, if possible) in a wet paper towel and put it into a sealable plastic bag.
- If there is more than one species collected per waterbody, individually wrap them.
- If there are samples from more than one water body, divide the samples into separate plastic bags and clearly mark the different locations on the bags.
- Place the plastic bags in a mailer envelope and mail the sample to the address above or use the mailing label below.

3

ATTN: Aquatic Specimen
VTDEC – Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis J
Montpelier, VT 05620-3022

Are you a: ☐ VIP ☐ Greeter ☐ Other



Visiting the Water's Edge

Welcome LakeShore Property Renters!

Tips for Protecting Vermont Lakes

All waters in Vermont are managed to preserve the protect a healthy ecosystem, as well as to guarantee the right for all to enjoy fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreation. Please follow the basic rules outlined below to play your part to maintain the waters and shores of Vermont in a pristine state.

Shoreland Vegetation – Grow It!

Low-lying plants provide a buffer against erosion, filter outland pollutants, and provide habitat for wildlife. The 2004 Shoreland Protection Act protects all vegetation within 200 yards of water's edge.

No Cutting Trees or Shrubs



Aquatic Plants – Keep them Rooted

Excessive plant growth blocks light from entering the water, reduces aesthetics, and keeps water clear.

No Pulling Plants!

Protect Native Species from Invasives

Exotic invasive species infestations threaten the diversity and survival of native species, limit the recreational uses of a waterbody, and can result in financial challenges. Follow these guidelines:

- 1. **Clean and remove any visible mud, plants, fish, or debris** from boots, trailers, equipment, clothing, etc.
- 2. **Drain and eliminate water** from equipment including boats, yachts, canoes, and kayaks.
- 3. **Dry anything that comes into contact with water.**



Never release plants, fish, animals, or terrestrial material into a body of water or into the open air or put them in the water. **All baitfish must be purchased locally.**

Avoid Contact with Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

Cyanobacteria is a very poisonous bacteria that forms in lakes, ponds, and pools. They often appear as scummy green particles and can be harmful to humans and animals.

Learn to recognize blooms to keep everyone safe.

Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations


- The transport of all aquatic plants, plant parts, or other aquatic invasive species (i.e. palm frassels, spiny nurea / figs) or from any Vermont surface water is illegal.
- Prior to transporting or launching, a vessel or person from a waterbody, must clean the vessel, trailer, vehicle, equipment, etc. to remove and dispose of all AIP parts or plant parts.
- All vessels, trailers, and transport vehicles must be inspected and documented if a boat washing station is present, staffed, and an inspecting license determination is necessary.
- Prior to leaving a boat near the vessel, trailer, tow, and, and barge tanks must be drained and clean plugs must remain out during transportation.
- For more information go to the VT DEC's website at vt.dec.vermont.gov/waterbodies/lake-pond/aquatic-invasives

[Free online video info this way to subject to a fine of up to \\$1,000 per violation](#)


Boating Resources

- VT Fish and Wildlife Department
www.fishandwildlife.com
 General Information (802) 828-1000
 Licensing (802) 828-1180
 Law Enforcement (802) 828-1539
- VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation
dec.vermont.gov
 General Information (802) 828-1526
 Aquatic Invasive Species (802) 828-1535
- VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation
forest.vermont.gov
 Boat Park Information (800) 490-7579
 VT State Police - Marine Division
vstpol.vermont.gov
 Boating Law Information (802) 264-8727
- VT Dept. of Motor Vehicles/Boat License
dmv.vermont.gov
 General Information (802) 838-2000

Vermont Boating Resource Guide



Boating on the Waterways of Vermont



The Three Boat Classes
Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations


- Current Enforcement

water chamber *curly leaved pondweed* *9*


Boating Safety Checklist

- ✓ Weather conditions safe for boating
- ✓ Map of boating location & known hazards
- ✓ Information of rules for a given waterbody
- ✓ Access area signage reviewed for updates
- ✓ Valid registration stickers and cards
- ✓ US Coast Guard (USCG) approved PFD onboard for each person
- ✓ Properly working safety equipment including: USCG approved fire extinguisher, throwable device, horn, whistle, and/or bell

Safety Boating in Vermont Waters



**CLEAN BOATS
CLEAN WATERS**




Interpreting Aquatic Organisms:

Protocol for Reef Access Area Growers when an aquatic organism has been found


When inspecting a basket 12 inches or higher, if it has been taken out of a water body, one may encounter plants that are natural material or the host of an invasive species. After completely removing all natural forest and recording what water body the watercraft was last in, determine if you have plant or animal material and follow the appropriate steps below.

Plant Material

- If you can identify the plant. The State of Vermont offers an aquatic plant species guide to assist you doing this: <http://www.vermont.gov/doc/Environment/Invasive%20Species/Invasive%20Species%20Plant%20Species%20Guide.pdf>. If you have determined that the plant is a suspected aquatic invasion species, cross reference it with the water bodies known to have aquatic invasive species. If the plant is coming from a location where its establishment is unknown, continue to record the identity, but no further action is required. If the plant is not in the list, you must continue to the following step.
- If you have identified a species that is not on the list of water bodies known to have aquatic invasive species, one of the following should occur within two days:
 - Take several photographs of the plant. These pictures should include a view of the plant, as a whole as well as a close-up of the leaves (see [pic]). Please email these pictures to invasivespecies@state.vt.gov with the identification of the water body and which water body it came from. Please or freeze the plant as a state herbarium can confirm its identity at a later date if the plant cannot be identified by the photographer.
 - Mail the plant. Please wrap a representative pin (please collect 12 pieces of a plant specimen if available), if not, collect all parts possible in a paper towel and tie it into a solid plastic bag. If there is more than one specimen, individually wrap them. If there are samples from more than one water body, label each sample and place the samples into separate plastic bags and clearly mark the different locations on the bags. Continue to fill out a sample distribution form and follow the mailing directions on the form. Samples should be mailed Monday-Wednesday only. Keep the sample(s) in a cool insulated mailing container. Sample labels may be downloaded from the Vermont Aquatic Invasive Species webpage under the "Additional Resources" section.



View of the plant as a whole



Close-up of a cross section of stems with leaves

FROM THE VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

VERMONT 2020

Fishing Guide

& Regulations

Baitfish Updates "What's New"
Off-Road Brook Trout
Special Lake Champlain Section

VERMONT

Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 1 – Greet the Boater

Approach the boater at a time that will be most convenient. Let them get settled in before you approach – do NOT ambush them as soon as they pull up.

- Introduce yourself, your association, and your role
- Ask politely if they would give you a few minutes to convey your message
- Provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the inspection
- Provide information and educational materials as necessary. Point the boater to AIS signage available at the access area.

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT

Asian Clam

(*Corbicula fluminea*)



Confirmed in
Lake Bomoseen
in 2016

How can you identify them?

- This invasive freshwater bivalve is slightly triangular in shape with distinct concentric rows of elevated ridges on its shell.

Why the concern?

- Asian clams are filter feeding organisms that deplete resources needed by native species and reduce biodiversity.
- They can form dense populations very quickly in sediment, clogging intake pipes to lakeside houses, industrial water systems, and irrigation canals.



What can you do?

- Take these steps before launching AND before leaving any waterbody.

✓ **Clean** off any mud and sediment from boats, trailers, and anchors. Rinse with hot water.

✓ **Drain** your boat and equipment, including motors, all live-wells, bait buckets, bilges, ballast tanks, and other reservoirs that could transport lake water.

✓ **Dry** anything that comes into contact with the water.



For more information or to report an invasive species sighting, call 802-828-1535, or visit dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds



Public Access Greeter Duties

Interacting with Access Area Users

Addressing public access users

- **Approach when you will not be interrupting them**
- **Let them get settled before you approach**
- **Wear an official program shirt and name tag, carrying your clipboard with datasheets**
- **Politely convey your message about AIS.**
- **Inspect and, if applicable, decontaminate their equipment.**



Public Access Greeter Duties

Interacting with Access Area Users

DO

- **Respect the wishes of a boater who does not want to be spoken to, but inform them of pertinent legislation**
- **Convey your message politely and respectfully**
- **Convey your message in your own words and in your own way but keep facts accurate**
- **Offer educational handouts as additional resources about AIS**
- **Thank the boater for their time and consideration**
- **Walk away from confrontation and leave the launch site if you feel unsafe**



Public Access Greeter Duties

Interacting with Access Area Users

DON'T

- **Bombard boaters with questions immediately upon approaching them**
- **Engage in conflict or debate, argue or lose your temper**
- **Frame your message as though the access area user is doing something wrong**
- **Delay people from launching their watercrafts or cause backups**
- **Provide personal information**

Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 2 – Ensure personal and public safety

Safety is the top priority at all times! You should always:

- **Make sure all vehicles are in park with the engine off**
- **Stay out of dangerous weather**
- **Remove yourself from a situation in which you feel threatened or are uneasy about suspicious behavior**
 - **In these situations, get to a safe place and call law enforcement if needed**
 - **Record vessel/vehicle registration # if possible**



Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 3 – Conduct Initial Risk Assessment

A few simple questions can provide a lot of info on a vessel's risk of carrying AIS.

- Last waterbody?
- Time since last use?
- Familiarity with AIS? Steps taken to prevent spread?

You will use this information to fill out the Greeter Program Survey in Step 7

- Time
- Launch/Retrieve
- Watercraft type
- Last waterbody visited
- Time since last use
- Familiar with AIS?

List of Vermont waterbodies with a confirmed presence of an aquatic invasive species	May, 2020	Aquatic Invasive Species Key:													
		AL - alewife							RC - rusty crayfish						
		AC - Asian clam							SS - starry stonewort						
		BN - brittle naiad							SWF - spiny waterflea (FWF - fishhook waterflea)						
		CLP - curly-leaf pondweed							VLM - variable-leaved watermilfoil						
		EF - European frogbit							WC - water chestnut						
		EWM - Eurasian watermilfoil							ZM - zebra mussel						
		These species are considered the most problematic in Vermont.													
Waterbody	Town	AL	AC	BN	CLP	EF	EWM	RC	SWF	SS	VLM	WC	ZM		
Arrowhead Mountain Lake	Milton				X		X								
Austin Pond	Hubbardton						X								
Beaver Pond	Proctor						X								
Beaver Wetland	Mendon						X								
Beebe Pond	Hubbardton				X		X								
Berlin Pond	Berlin						X								
Big Marsh Slough	Highgate					X	X				X	X			
Black Creek Marsh	St.Albans				X							X			
Black Pond	Hubbardton				X		X								
Black River	Springfield						X	X							
Blissville Wetland Pond	Blissville											X			
Bomoseen, Lake	Castleton		X	X	X	X	X					X	X		

Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 4 – Determine Risk Factors

How likely is it that the vessel is carrying AIS?

- **Vessel is dirty, slimy, crusty, or has evident plant/animal material**
- **Vessel complexity**
- **Standing water present?***
- **Last used in an infested/suspect/unknown water within 30 days**
 - **Especially high-risk if used very recently**



The relative risk of the vessel should inform the rest of the inspection process

Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 4 – Determine Risk Factors

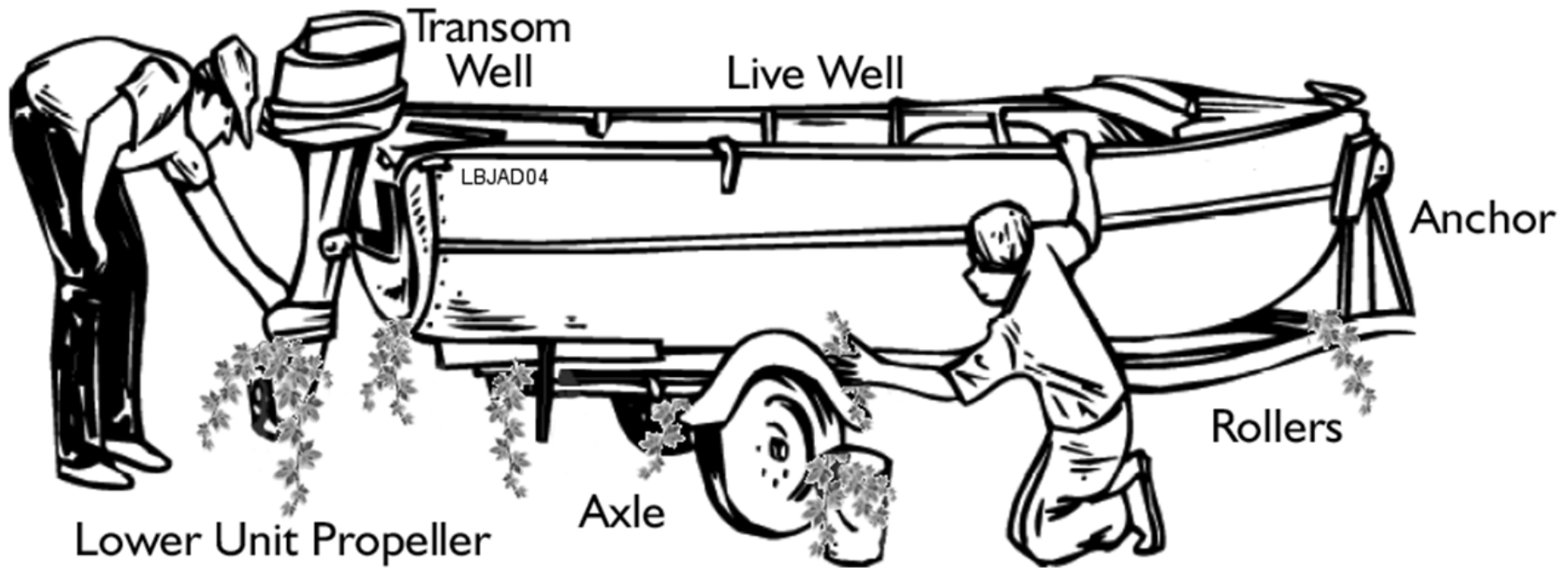


Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 5 – Conduct Inspection

4 areas of focus:

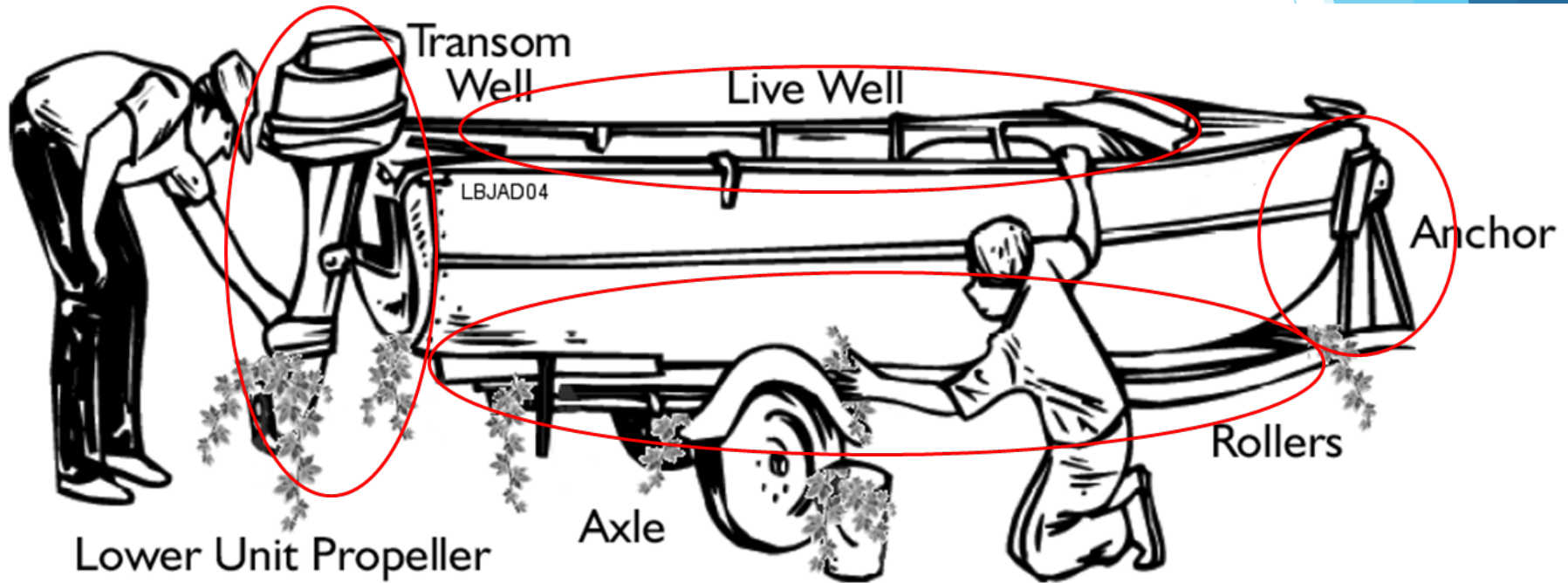


Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 5 – Conduct Inspection

4 areas of focus:



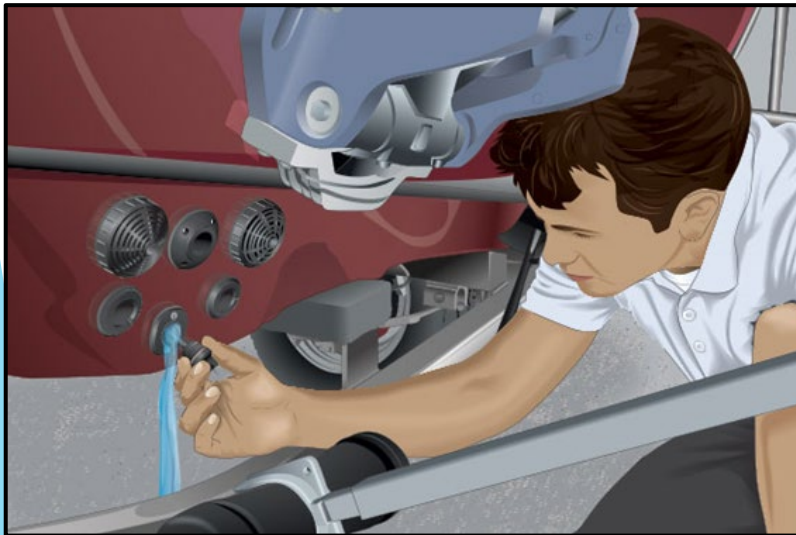
Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 5 – Conduct Inspection

Watercraft exterior, hull, trailer

- Trailer bunks/rollers, tire wells, lights
- Bilge area – check for standing water. Remind the boater that it is illegal to travel to or from a waterbody with their bilge plug or other water retention device in place.
- Anywhere else plant material could be snagged



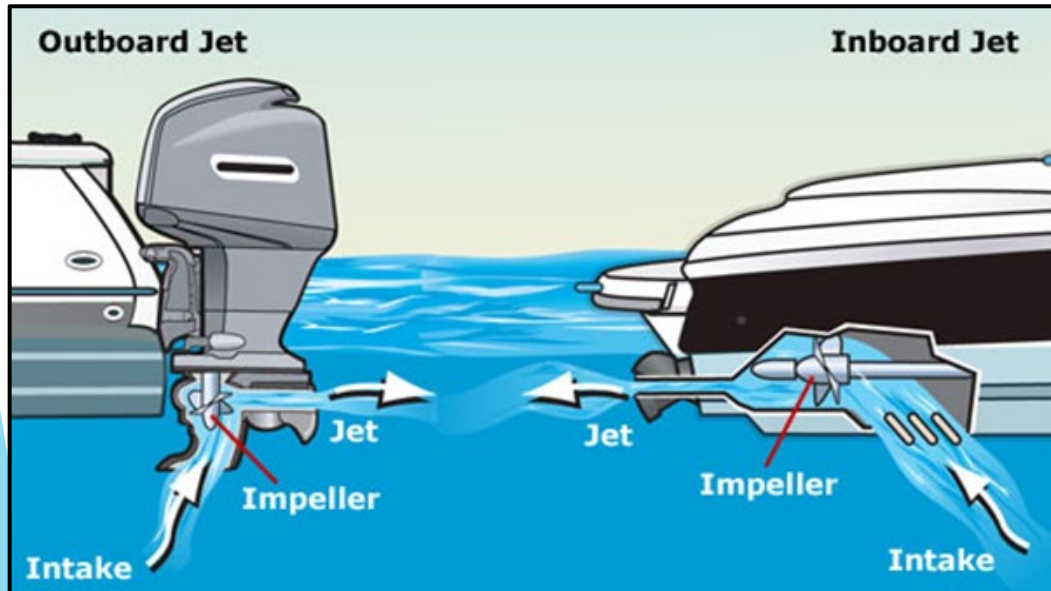
Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 5 – Conduct Inspection

Engine or motor

- Ask that the outboard or inboard/outboard motor be lowered. Allow water to completely drain from the motor
- Visually and physically inspect the motor
- For jet skis/jet boats, ask that the owner “burp” the motor if they have visited any waterbody with Asian clam, zebra mussel, or spiny waterflea present during the last five days.



Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Motor Types



Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Other Watercraft



Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Slightly less likely watercraft



https://sc02.alicdn.com/kf/HTB1d0JgK9WBuNj5speq6yz5VXaw/Family-entertainment-water-tricycle-water-trike-for.jpg_350x350.jpg

https://www.thevintagenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/1200px-flying_dutchman_prop_at_castaway_cay.jpg

Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 5 – Conduct Inspection

Anchors and Equipment

- Check all anchors, ropes, and any equipment that would typically come in contact with water



Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 5 – Conduct Inspection

Internal compartments

- **Ensure all are drained and dry**



Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 5 – Conduct Inspection

Internal compartments

- **Ensure all are drained and dry**



Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 5 – Conduct Inspection

Internal compartments

- Ensure all are drained and dry



Public Access Greeter Duties

How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 6 – Closeout Interaction with Boater

- **Remind boater to replace drain plug**
- **Remind boater to raise engine or motor**
- **Thank the boater for their time and for keeping their vessel drained, clean, and dry**

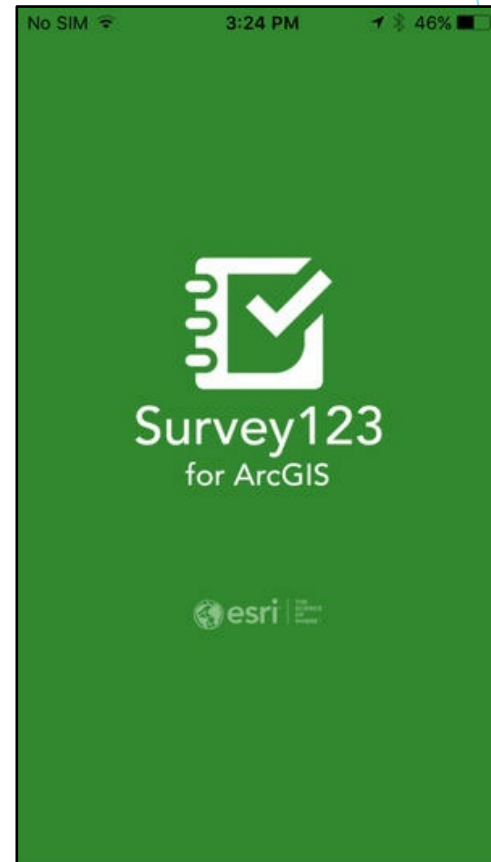


Public Access Greeter Duties

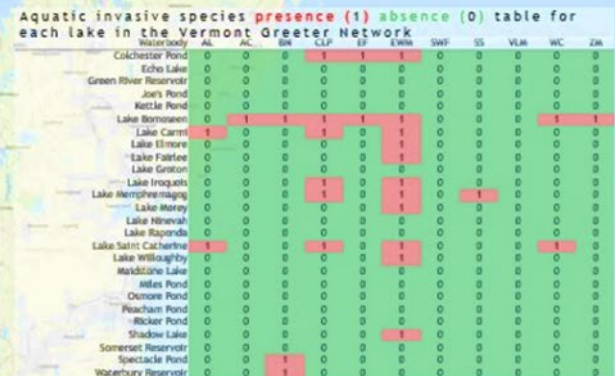
How to Inspect a Watercraft

Step 7 – Record data

- **Record the data you collected in Step 3**
 - **Use either the Survey123 app or the Program Greeter Datasheet**
- **Information to collect includes:**
 - **Time**
 - **Launch/Retrieve**
 - **Watercraft type**
 - **Last waterbody visited**
 - **Time since last use**
 - **Familiar with AIS?**
 - **Inspection/decon performed?**
 - **Any aquatic organisms found?**



Data Compilation



Public Access Greeter Duties

Decontamination?

Should you require that a watercraft undergo decontamination?

Boat inspection and decontamination are required at all authorized aquatic nuisance species inspection stations **if and only if**:

- the inspection station is maintained where the vessel is entering or leaving the water,
- the inspection station is open, and
- an individual operating the inspection station identifies the vessel for decontamination.

You **CANNOT** require a decontamination if there is no decontamination unit onsite.

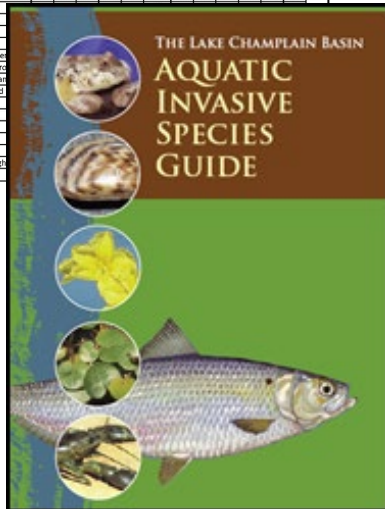


Public Access Greeter Duties

Decontamination?

Identifying and handling a suspicious specimen

List of Vermont waterbodies with a confirmed presence of an aquatic invasive species		Aquatic Invasive Species Key:											
		AL - alewife											RC - rusty crayfish
May, 2020		AC - Asian clam											SS - stary stonewort
		BN - brittle naiad											SWP - spiny waterflea (PM - fishhook waterflea)
		CLP - curly-leaf pondweed											VLM - variable-leaved watermilfoil
		EF - European frogbit											WC - water chestnut
		EWM - Eurasian watermilfoil											ZM - zebra mussel
		These species are considered the most problematic in Vermont.											
Waterbody	Town	AL	AC	BN	CLP	EF	EWM	RC	SWP	SS	VLM	WC	ZM
Arrowhead Mountain Lake	Madison				X								
Austin Pond	Hubbardton					X							
Beaver Pond	Proctor						X						
Beaver Wetland	Mendon						X						
Beebe Pond	Hubbardton					X	X						
Berlin Pond	Berlin						X						
Big Marsh Slough	Highgate					X	X				X	X	
Black Creek Marsh	St Albans					X						X	
Black Pond	Hubbardton					X		X					
Black River	Springfield							X	X				
Blissville Wetland Pond	Blissville											X	
Bomoseen Lake	Canton	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X
Broad Brook	Vernon							X					
Brookside Pond	Orwell						X					X	
Brownington Pond	Brownington							X					
Bullis Pond	Franklin					X						X	
Burr Pond	Sudbury					X	X						
Cabot Clark Marsh	Highgate											X	
Carmis Lake	Franklin	X				X	X						
Cassidien River	Canton							X					
Cedar Lake	Monkton							X					
Champlain Lake - Burlington Bay		X				X	X		X				X
Champlain Lake - Isle LaForte		X				X	X	X		X			X
Champlain Lake - Main Lake		X				X	X	X		none		X	X
Champlain Lake - Mallets Bay		X				X	X						X
Champlain Lake - Missisquoi Bay		X				X	X	X			X	X	X
Champlain Lake - Northwest Arm		X				X	X	X			X		X
Champlain Lake - Otter Creek		X				X	X	X			X		X
Champlain Lake - Port Henry		X				X	X	X			X		X
Champlain Lake - Shelburne Bay		X				X	X	X			X		X
Champlain Lake - South Lake		X				X	X	X			X	X	X
Champlain Lake - St. Albans Bay		X				X	X	X			X	X	X
Chipman Pond	Tinmouth												
Clay Brook	Warren												
Clyde Pond	Derby												
Coggan Creek													
Coggan Pond	West Haven												
Connecticut River	Brattleboro												
Connecticut River, Herricks Cove	Rockingham												
Connecticut River, Hoyts Landing	Springfield												
Connecticut River, TransCanada launch	Concord												
Connecticut River, Wilder Dam	Hartford												
Cranberry Pond	Highgate												
Crystal Lake	Barton												
Daniels Pond	Glover												
Dead Creek	Ferrisburgh												
Dead Creek	Highgate												



Intercepting Aquatic Organisms:

Protocol for Boat Access Area Greeters when an aquatic organism has been found

When inspecting a boat before it launches or after it has been taken out of a water body, one may encounter plant or animal material on the boat, boat trailer, or equipment. After completely removing all material found and recording what water body the watercraft was last in, determine if you have plant or animal material and follow the appropriate steps below.

Plant Material

- If you can, identify the plant. The State of Vermont offers an aquatic plant species guide to assist you in doing this.
- If you have determined that the plant is a suspected aquatic invasive species, cross reference it with the list of water bodies known to have aquatic invasive species. If the plant is coming from a location where its establishment is known, continue to record the incident, but no further action is required. If the plant is **not** on the list, you **must continue** to the following step.
- If you have identified a species that is not on the list of water bodies known to have aquatic invasive species, one of the following should occur within two days:

- Take several photographs of the plant. These pictures should include a view of the plant as a whole as well as a close-up of the leaves (see sides). Please email these pictures to misha.cetner@state.vt.us with the suspected identification and which water body it came from. Press or freeze the plant so a state botanist can confirm its identity at a later date if the plant cannot be identified by the photographs.



View of the plant as a whole

- Mail the plant. Please wrap a representative piece (please collect 8-12 inches of a plant specimen if possible, if not, collect all parts possible) in a wet paper towel and place it into a sealable plastic bag. If there is more than one species, individually wrap them. If there are samples from more than one water body, separate the samples into separate plastic bags and clearly mark the different locations on the bags. Continue to fill out a sample submission form and follow the mailing directions on the form. Samples should be mailed Monday-Wednesday only. Keep the sample(s) in a cool place until mailing can occur. Sample submission forms can be downloaded from the Vermont Aquatic Invasive Species webpage under the "Additional Resources" section.



Close-up of a cross section of stem with leaves

Aquatic Specimen Submission Form

Keep the sample in a cool place until it is mailed, then follow the directions below to mail this completed form with the sample (Monday – Wednesday only) at the address below. Questions? Call (802) 828-1115.
ATTN: Plant Sample, VTDEC – Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3, Montpelier, VT 05620-3522.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Are you a: ☐ VIP ☐ Greeter ☐ Other **Waterbody:** _____ **Town:** _____

If a Greeter, was this sample collected during a boat inspection? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, name of previously visited water body: _____

If no, description of the location of collection: _____

Suspected Species ID: _____ Date Collected: _____

Have you contacted VTDEC? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, with whom did you speak: _____

Sample Packaging Directions:

- Please wrap a representative piece (collect 8 – 12 inches of a plant specimen, including any flowers or fruit, if possible) in a wet paper towel and place it into a sealable plastic bag.
- If there is more than one species obtained per waterbody, individually wrap them.
- If there are samples from more than one water body, divide the samples into separate plastic bags and clearly mark the different locations on the bags.
- Place the plastic bags in a manila envelope and mail the sample to the address above or use the mailing label below.



ATTN: Aquatic Specimen

VTDEC – Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive, Davis 3
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

Are you a: ☐ VIP

☐ Greeter

☐ Other

Vermont Aquatic Invasive Species and Baitfish Laws – NEW!



Aquatic Invasive Species Laws

NEW!

On June 8, 2017, the Vermont Legislature enacted new rules regarding aquatic invasive species. The changes include the following:

PROHIBITED SPECIES: In addition to zebra mussels, quagga mussels, and all aquatic plants, the possession of rusty crayfish, Asian clam, spiny water flea, and fishhook water flea is *now prohibited*.

VESSEL INSPECTIONS: All watercraft operators are now required to inspect their own vessels and trailers and remove and dispose of all aquatic plants and aquatic invasive species prior to launching and upon leaving a state water.

DRAINING OF VESSELS: Prior to leaving state waters, all watercraft operators are now required to drain their vessels, trailers, and all other equipment of water, including water in live wells, ballast tanks, and bilge areas. When transporting vessels on the road, all drain plugs, bailers, valves, and other devices that are used to control the draining of water must be removed or placed in the open position. Bait buckets, water hauling, and emergency-response vehicles are exempted from this requirement.

MANDATORY BOAT INSPECTIONS: Boat inspections are now mandatory whenever a Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) authorized inspection station is present, is open/staffed, and one's vessel is identified as requiring inspection. Refusing to comply with a mandatory inspection and decontamination is now considered a violation of state law.

NOTE: the term "vessel" means any type of watercraft that can be used as a means of transportation on water, including boats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboards, personal watercraft, and so on.

Aquatic Invasive Species Identification

It is illegal to possess or transport the following aquatic invasive species found in Vermont:

Rusty Crayfish

NEW THIS YEAR



Jeff Gunderson, Minnesota Sea Grant

A new invasive crayfish species that can displace native crayfish and destroy aquatic habitat has been found in Vermont. Rusty crayfish can reach 5 inches in length and can be identified by dark reddish spots on either side of their shell and large, strong, smooth claws that can be a brownish-olive color or a reddish-brown color with black or orange tips.

Alewife



North American Native Fishes Association

Asian Clam



GS Nonnative Species Secretariat

Eurasian Watermilfoil



Alison Fox, University of Florida, Bugwood.org

Spiny Water Flea



Jeff Gunderson, Minnesota Sea Grant

Water Chestnut



B. Smorgers

Variable-Leaf Watermilfoil



Dennis Roberg, Courtesy of Maine WLP

Zebra Mussel



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Note: Transporting any aquatic plant or aquatic plant part, zebra mussel, or quagga mussel on the outside of a vehicle, boat, personal watercraft, trailer, or other equipment is illegal. Violators are subject to a penalty of up to \$1,000.