

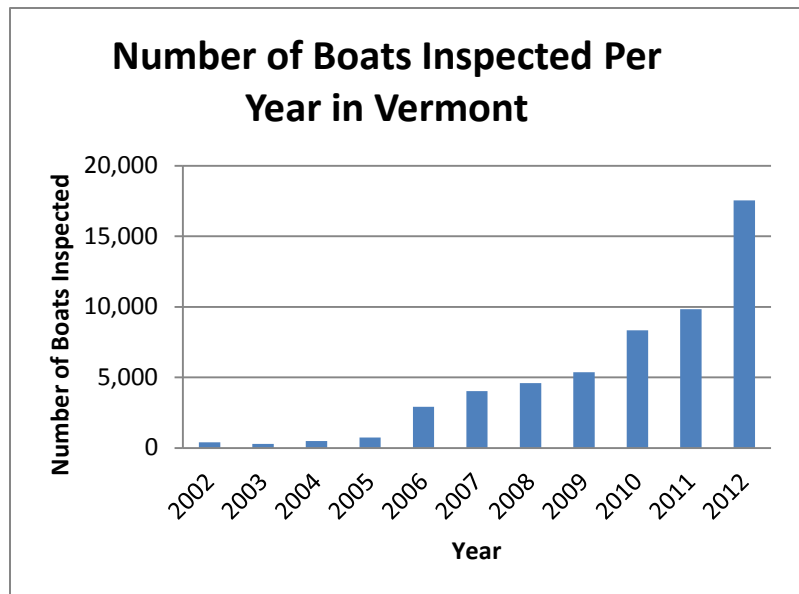
Vermont Boat Access Greeter Program

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) plague water resources around the world. With the human global footprint rapidly expanding and domestic and international travel on the rise worldwide, we may be bringing other species with us, intentionally or unintentionally. Once a non-native species arrives on our shores, it is important to understand the ways in which we contribute to their spread. In many instances, recreational activities, such as boating and fishing, can be the primary means for AIS to “hitch a ride” between water bodies. An invasive species is nearly impossible to eradicate once introduced, so spread prevention and early detection from citizen monitoring efforts are critically important. As a result, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation’s (VTDEC) Boat Access Greeter Program was developed to be the vanguard of protecting our water bodies from the costly environmental, economic, and recreational harm of AIS.

Program Goals

To prevent the spread of AIS by establishing a well-trained network of boat access greeters who:

1. Offer visual inspections of boats and associated equipment to locate and remove any plant material or animals.
2. Educate water users on the importance of spread prevention; the ease with which one can clean and maintain recreational equipment; and Vermont’s spread prevention laws.



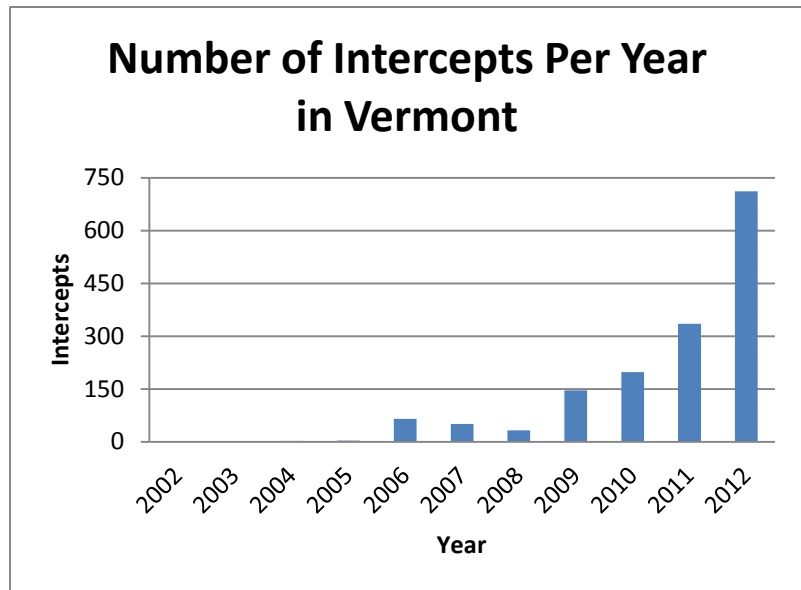
Program Data

Since 2002, the Vermont Boat Access Greeter Program has expanded to over twenty sites statewide. The total number of boats inspected has followed suit, with 404 in 2002 to 17,557 in 2012. Programs have also increased their effectiveness at intercepting specimens, or removing any plant material or animals before a boat is launched or after it is retrieved. In 2012, more than 700 intercepts were recorded, 488 of which were identified as the harmful Eurasian

watermilfoil. Other species found on boats nearly every year include the invasives water chestnut, zebra mussels, and curly-leaf pondweed, as well as various native species.

Boat Access Greeter Duties

- Approaching and interacting with boaters
- Inspecting watercraft
- Identifying and handling suspicious specimens
- Data collection and reporting
- Distributing educational material on AIS

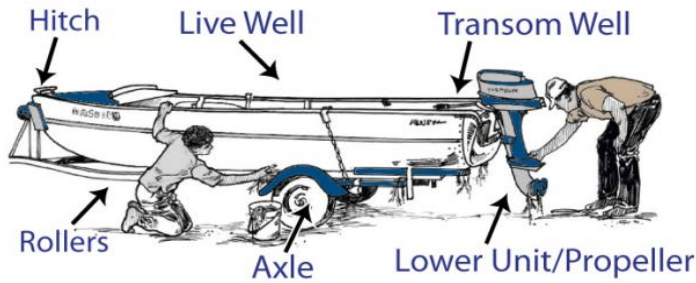


Training




If you are a new greeter, a program coordinator, or would just like to brush up on the latest information regarding AIS in Vermont, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (VTDEC) will provide at least one workshop per year and cover these topics:

- Aquatic invasive species biology, threats to Vermont, and the importance of spread prevention
- Aquatic invasive species identification hands-on workshop
- Access area rules and regulations, baitfish regulations, and invasive species laws
- Tips on delivering invasive species messages and interacting with the public

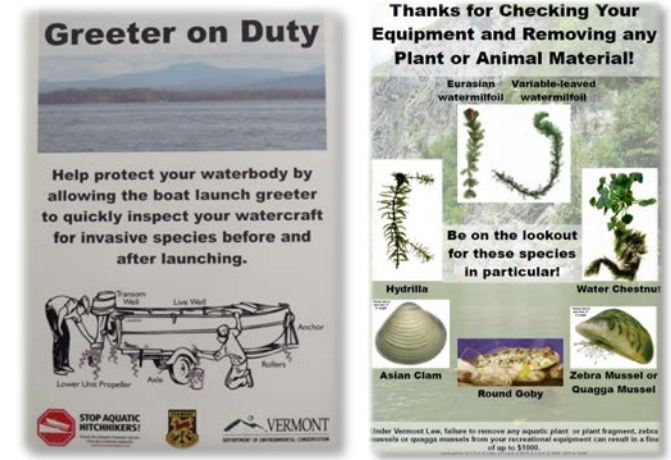
WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS



When you leave a body of water:

-  **Clean** off any mud, plants (even small fragments), and animals from boats, trailers and equipment.
-  If possible wash at home or at a car wash.
-  **Drain** boat and equipment away from water.
- Dry** anything that comes into contact with water.

Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.



Front and back of greeter t-shirt

"Greeter on Duty" sandwich board, front (Left) and back (right)

2013 Workshops

<p>Friday May 17, 2013 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM Capital City Grange Hall, Montpelier, VT</p>	<p>Friday May 31, 2013 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM Community House, Morgan, VT</p>
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Registration required:

To register, email Misha Cetner at misha.cetner@state.vt.us by the listed dates above for the workshop of your choice. A group of people can also be registered; include the

total number and names of all those attending. Click [here](#) for the promotional flyer with more detailed information on the workshops.



Greeters at Seymour Lake (J. Selby)

Program Materials

If you currently run a program or want to start a new program, the VTDEC will provide you with materials to give all greeter programs across the state a unified presentation. Each program will receive a “Greeter on Duty” welcoming sandwich board with AIS identification information on one side, “Access Greeter” t-shirt, and a greeter training manual.

Interested in starting a new program?

Contact Misha Cetner to inquire on how you can start to help protect your local water body at: misha.cetner@state.vt.us

Additional Greeter Resources

- [Aquatic Plant Sample Submission Form](#)
- [Ban on Felt Soled Boots and Waders](#)
- [Guidelines to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species through Recreational Activities](#) (Draft)
- [Infested Water Bodies List](#)
- [Intercepting Aquatic Organisms](#)
- Spotlight on a Greeter Program
- [Using Baitfish in Vermont](#)
- Vermont Boat Access Greeter Program Training Manual
- [Vermont Department of Agriculture, Food & Markets Quarantine #3 - Noxious Weeds](#)
- [VTDEC Greeter Program Data Sheet](#)
- [VTDEC Intercept Report Sheet](#)
- [Vermont Transport of Aquatic Plants and Aquatic Nuisance Species Law](#)

New! Greeter Program Photo Contest

In 2013, the “Vermont Greeter Program Photo Contest” will kick off. Throughout the year, we encourage every program to participate by sending in their top three pictures of the year which best documents their program. Examples of photos might be: a greeter in action; a clump of plants found on a boat; or your program members at your access.

Submitted pictures will be judged by VTDEC staff and the winner will be announced by the end of March 2014. The top three selections will be placed on the Vermont Boat Access Greeter Program webpage and be on the cover of the 2014 Vermont Boat Access Greeter Program Training Manual with your photo credits.