

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

June 26-29, 2023

Prepared By:

Upper Saranac Foundation
It still is, and always will be, about Water Quality



Upper Saranac Foundation

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Overview

The Upper Saranac Foundations Aquatic Invasive Divers (AID) worked out of the private beach residence of the Dumas family on Moody Pond. This location provided convenience to known aquatic invasive species (AIS) infestation locations. A four-person crew (one-top water, and three underwater divers) devoted 120 hours of work in the week of June 26-29, 2023.

The divers, trained in AIS identification, found only one type of invasive; Eurasian watermilfoil. Due to thunderstorms on Monday, June 26 the crew concluded the day at 4:30pm. The work week concluded on the morning of Thursday, June 29.

The focus of the week was to first, hand-harvest any mature, old growth plants that were visible from the surface; removing plants that have the potential to fragment and reproduce. Our divers utilized a variety of techniques to locate and hand harvest AIS, including surface spotting from paddle boards, Hookah air compressor diving, line swims searches, and snorkeling.

The team was pleased to find mostly small plants, with little larger old growth milfoil. With few large and mature plants, chances for propagation become less. Bag totals and total poundage harvested remains low since most growth were small immature plants. Following harvesting of observable plants, divers concentrated on known growth areas and utilized grid or line search techniques to locate plants.

Harvest Data for the Week: 120 of diver work removed 863 plants totaling 1.0 bags of Eurasian watermilfoil equaling 25 pounds. This is a significant reduction in the number of plants and poundage from previous harvesting operations. Attributing to the reduction in weight is that the majority of plants found are smaller in size and volume. This, and the reduction of the number of plants found and harvested are both strong indicators of successful management accomplishments.

Unlike previous years, the majority of milfoil was located in the southeastern portion of the pond. This is also where the larger plants were found. The larger plants were likely hold overs from 2022.

Operations - Week of June 26-29, 2023

Diver tracking. Each tracking color represents a different day

June 26th -29th '23 Moody pond (coverage)



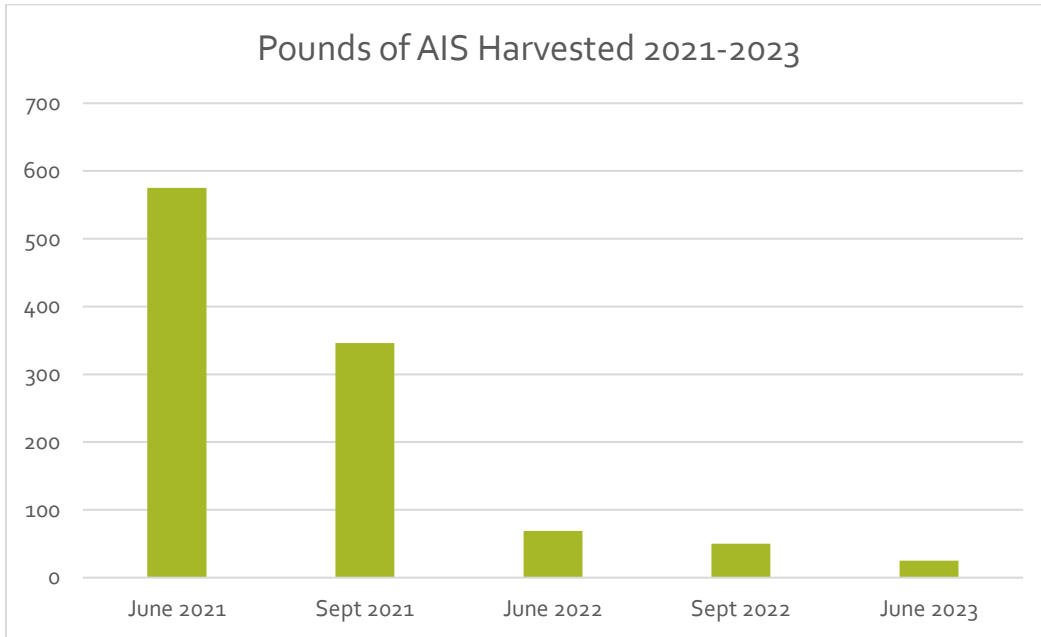
AIS EWM Location Map June 26-29, 2023

June 26th -29th '23 Moody pond

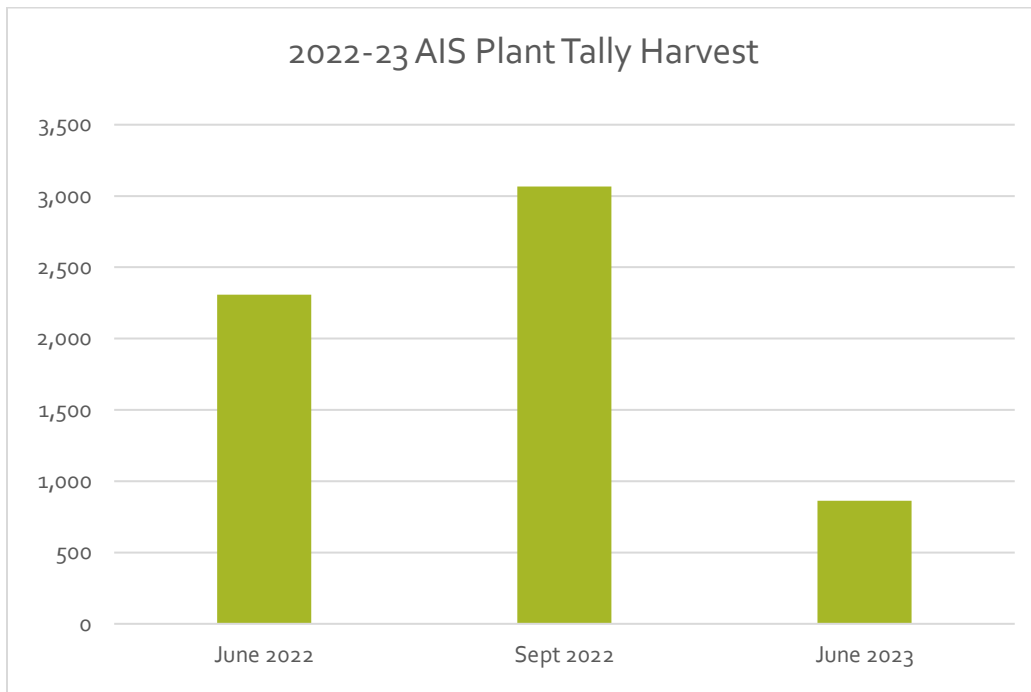


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AIS Harvesting Comparisons 2021-2023

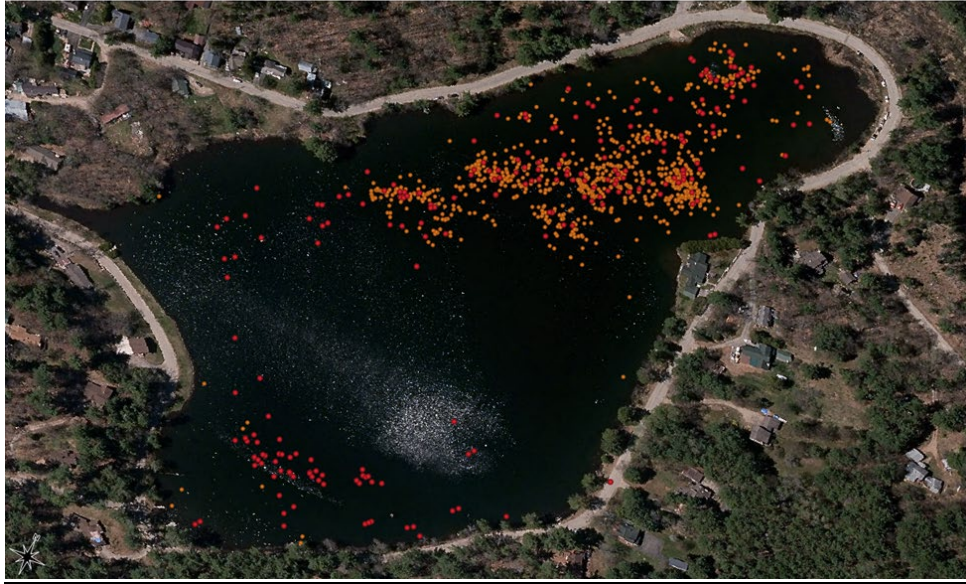


With low accumulating densities of AIS, divers are not only weighing daily harvest totals but also counting the number of plants harvested. This plant count began when USF- AID divers took over harvesting management in 2022. This method has been used on Upper Saranac Lake since 2015 and is a more accurate way of quantifying and assessing the efficacy overtime of our management techniques.



AIS Plant locations 2022 (orange) compared to June 2023 (red)

heat map: june 26th -29th '23 Moody pond (red) - compared- 2022 season points (orange)



Monday June 26, 2023

Description: The dive team began the day with surface spotting from paddle boards. The majority of plants that were spotted were located in the south eastern corner of the pond. Wind and clouds limited visibility but did provide a starting point to focus harvesting efforts. Developing thunderstorms later in the day prevented the divers from completing the day, concluding at 3:30pm.

june 26th '23 Moody pond



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Tuesday June 27, 2023

Description: The divers initiated a grid search pattern starting in the northern shallows and moved southerly

June 27th '23 Moody pond



Wednesday June 28, 2023

Description: The dive crew explored the deeper areas of the pond via a line swim, working from north to south.

June 28th '23 Moody pond



Thursday June 29, 2023

Description: The dive crew returned to make up the time lost due to thunderstorm on Monday, June 26. Surface spotting was utilized to assure that there were no visible plants remaining. Buoys used to direct the divers were retrieved. The crew completed the work week at 9:30am.

Future Plans

The Upper Saranac Foundation AID team will tentatively return the week of July 24. The spacing of management periods will allow any AIS regrowth not already harvested, to emerge and be identified, but prior to it becoming mature enough to fragment and start additional growth. USF personnel will also take part in the Friends of Moody Pond Annual Ice Cream Social on August 12. Our staff will be on hand to demonstrate how our equipment is used and be available to answer questions about the program.

Photos



Remnants from ice harvesting on Moody Pond – Pick Poles (also known as pike poles)



Surface spotting techniques utilized by the divers



Dive Team AIS Bag harvest

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