

# Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

June 3,4 and 18, 2024

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.

Hours of management in 2024 will range between 300 and 320, and determined based on invasive growth and harvesting needs. Management periods will be spread out with work being completed between June and September. With the slight modification to our management approach, we will no longer spend a full week for each management session. Our staff will monitor growth and return to harvest as needed based on growth. We are confident that with this flexibility in scheduling we can be more effective and provide a better outcome for less cost.

With the early ice out and warmer water temps we scheduled an earlier start than past years to assure any plants don't mature enough to fragment. The focus of the first harvesting session 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 divers, trained in AIS identification, found only one type of invasive; Eurasian watermilfoil. 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. Plants found and harvested continues to decrease with each year and management session. The poundage also 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:** A three-person crew (one-top water, and two underwater divers) devoted 88.5 hours of work in June of 2024. The AID crew were on the pond three days in June and found and removed 101 invasive plants totaling approximately 5.65 pounds.

Most early season growth was found in the shallower waters on the outskirts of the pond. After finding limited plant growth on the second day of management, the team concluded harvesting for the week at the end of the day on Tuesday, June 4. The team returned on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6am for optimal calm water surface spotting. Our divers locating some larger plants in the deeper waters surrounded with some smaller satellite plants in the east portion of the pond. These plants were immediately retrieved utilizing the hookah air compressor.

Date	Hrs	Plants removed
3-Jun	33	40
4-Jun	30	14
18-Jun	25.5	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>88.5</b>	<b>101</b>

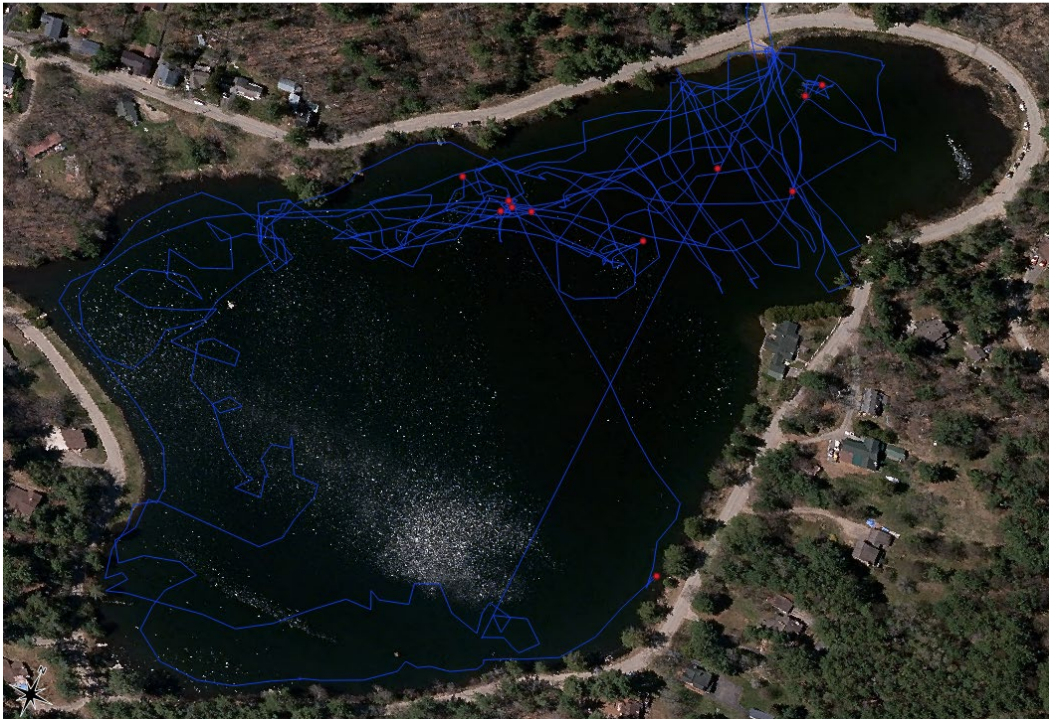
## Operations - June 2024

### Diver tracking. Red dots indicate locations of plants removed

June 3rd 2024 plant locations and coverage



June 4th 2024 plant locations and coverage



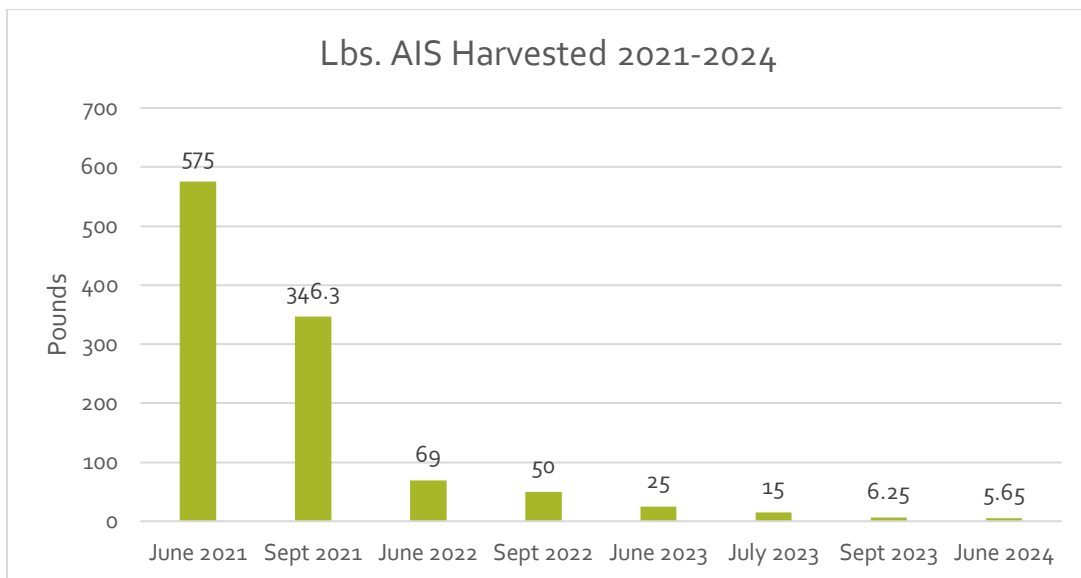
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june18 2024 plant locations and coverage

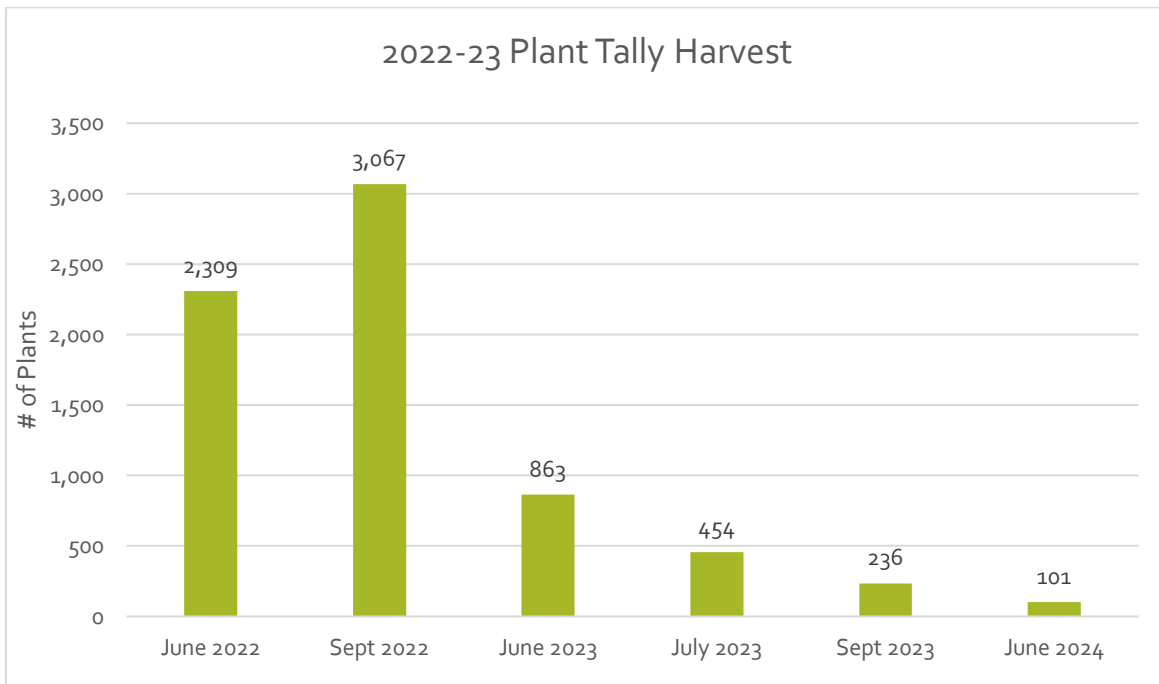


### AIS Harvesting Comparisons 2021-2024

There has been a continuous reduction in the number of plants and poundage removed 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 retrieved are both strong indicators of successful management accomplishments.



With low accumulating densities of AIS, our 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.



### **Future Plans**

The Upper Saranac Foundation AID team will return in July. Our staff will continue to monitor growth and we will return to harvest as needed based on the growth found during monitoring. Much of the focus will be where some of the larger plants were found to assure that if they did fragment, we locate new growth plants before they also mature. 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 10. Our staff will be on hand to demonstrate how our equipment is used and be available to answer questions about the program.

**Photos**



*Bag totals - day 1 (June 3) and day 2 (June 4)*



*Bag total day 3 (June 18) and size of some taller plants*

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*Surface spotting and snorkeling techniques utilized by the divers*

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