

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

July 24-27, 2023

Prepared By:

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



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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 for easy access to the pond and to known aquatic invasive species (AIS) infestation locations. A four-person crew (one-top water, and three underwater divers) devoted 120 individual hours of work in the week of July 24-27, 2023.

The divers, trained in AIS identification, found only one type of invasive; Eurasian watermilfoil. Due to thunderstorms on Monday, July 24 the crew concluded the day at 3:00pm. The work week continued on the morning of Thursday, July 27 making up the remainder of the time lost on Monday.

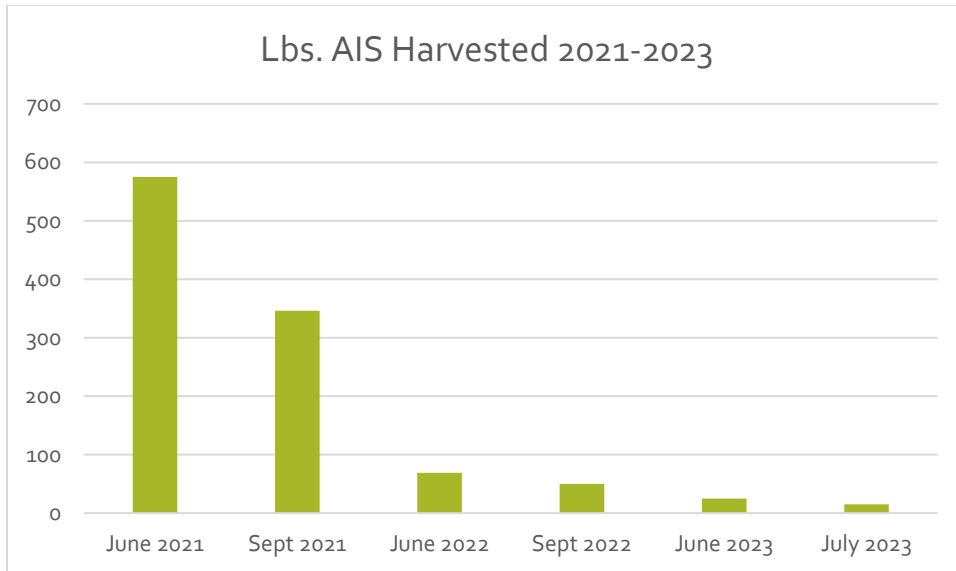
The focus of the week was to first, find and hand-harvest any mature old growth plants that were visible from the surface. Only three larger, multi stemmed plants were found in July. This is approximately half the number of plants found in the June harvest. As the week progressed the focus moved towards divers concentrating on known growth areas and utilizing grid or line search techniques to locate plants. Our divers applied 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.

Bag totals and total poundage harvested continue to drop as there is less plant abundance with smaller single stem plants. With the exception of the three large plants, the team was pleased to find just smaller plants. Only the three large plants had a chance of proliferation since June. Removal of mature plants, prior to fragmentation or flowering is the key to successful AIS reduction and eradication.

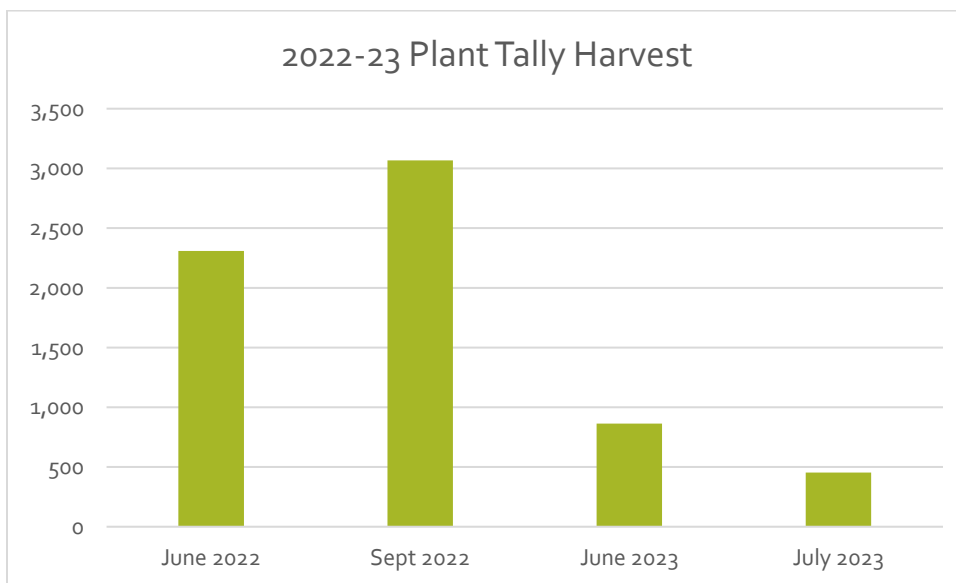
Operations - Week of July 24-27, 2023

Harvest Data for the Week:

Pounds Removed: The divers removed 6/10th of a bag of Eurasian watermilfoil equaling 15 pounds in July. This is compared to June when one bag equaling 25 pounds was removed. There has been a significant and continued reduction in the poundage removed throughout the past three years. Attributing to the reduction in weight is that the majority of plants found are smaller in size and volume.



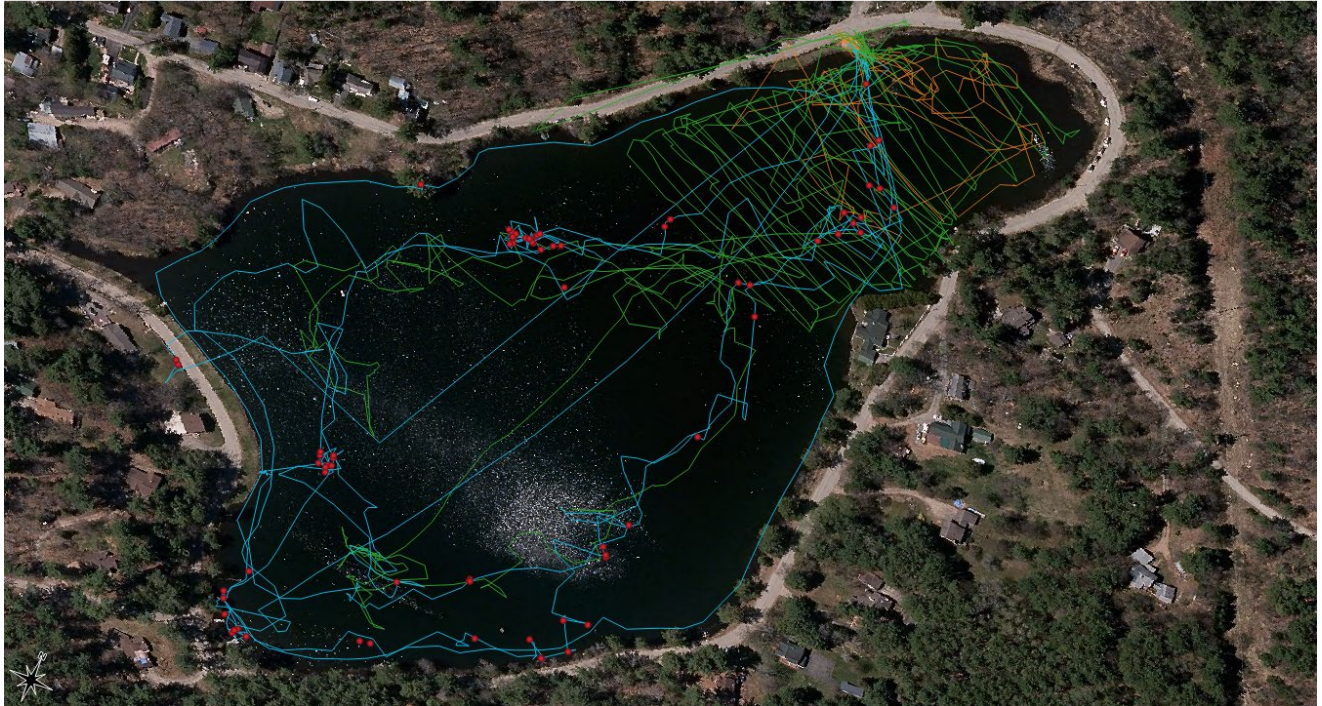
Plants Removed: In a similar manor, the total number of plants removed is also being reduced. This past harvesting session in July, divers removed 454 plants. This is a reduction from June when 863 were removed.



The reduction of the number of plants found and harvested, and the total poundage of AIS removed are both strong indicators of successful management accomplishments.

Diver Tracking and Plant Harvest Locations (July 24-27, 2023)

July 24-27 '23 Moody pond tracking/coverage



Each tracking color represents a different day

- Red dots:** harvested plant locations
- Orange:** Monday, July 24 * some data missing
- Green:** Tuesday, July 25
- Blue:** Wednesday, July 26

Monday July 24, 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. An entire lateral zone swim was used to retrieve the marked plants. The divers repeated similar operations of spotting, marking, and retrieval of the milfoil. Thunderstorms later in the day prevented the divers from completing a complete day, concluding at 3:00pm. Unfortunately, some of the tracking data for the day was not saved due to technical difficulties.

Tuesday July 25, 2023

Description: The divers initiated a grid search pattern starting in the northern shallows and moved southernly pushing into the deeper waters. The divers utilized buoys to mark out grid search pattern (as seen in the tracking patterns on the map in green). The divers also took an opportunity to follow the edge of the littoral zone and the deeper portions of the pond to assure there are no plants deeper than previously found.

Wednesday July 26, 2023

Description: The dive team began the day, utilizing calm and clear weather, to surface spot from paddle boards. The divers performed multiple passes, snorkeling around the pond, retrieving plants that were marked while surfacing spotting. A good amount of time was used to remove small plants found growing amongst native vegetation nearest the cedar row of trees by the white home, located on the pond side of the road.

Thursday July 27, 2023

Description: On Thursday, the dive crew returned to make up the three hours of time lost due to the thunderstorm that occurred on Monday, July 24. During this management session, all four members of the crew were in the water conducting a line swim around the outer edge of the pond. Putting all of our team in the water without a topwater personnel is uncommon practice for the USF. Without the concern of motorized watercraft on the pond we were able to apply this method allowing an additional diver to harvest AIS. The downside is that we are not able to track the divers' route or mark harvested plant locations.

Future Plans

USF personnel will 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. The Upper Saranac Foundation AID team will tentatively return the week of September 11 for the last of our three weeks of harvesting. 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.

Photos



Daily Dive Team AIS Bag harvest (From bottom to top – Monday – Thursday)