

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

July, 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) hours of management in 2024 will range between 300 and 320, and will be determined based on invasive growth and harvesting needs. Management periods will be spread out with work being completed between June and September. With this 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. We are confident that with this flexibility in scheduling we can be more effective and provide a better outcome for less cost.

Our AID team 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. Special thanks goes to the Dumas family for being so accommodating.

The focus for AIS management in July was to periodically check growth of any invasive species and harvest plants prior to their ability to mature enough to fragment. 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, again 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 each year the pond is managed. The poundage also remains low since most growth were small immature plants.

Harvest Data for the Month: The Upper Saranac Foundation dive crew visited Moody Pond three days during the month; July 2, 10 and 22. Our crew devoted 61 hours of work in July and found and removed 119 plants, totaling approximately 5.5 lbs. On July 2nd and 22nd our divers arrived at 6am during the calmest part of the day for optimal surface spotting.

Our divers used the mornings calm waters to observe plants visible from the surface. Invasive plants are then marked for removal later in the day. Our divers also utilized grid or line search techniques when plants can no longer be spotted from the surface.

In response to a notification from a shore owner and the Friends of Moody Pond about significant invasive growth near the Baker trailhead boat launch, the USF sent a crew

Date	Hrs.	Plants removed
3-Jun	33	40
4-Jun	30	14
18-Jun	25.5	47
2-Jul	30	55
10-Jul	1	0
22-Jul	30	64
Total	149.5	220

member to investigate on July 10th. The single crew member spent one-hour surface spotting looking for invasive milfoil plants. No invasive plants were located. It was determined, what was reported and misidentified was Bladderwort, an important native carnivorous aquatic plant <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utricularia> .

To date, we are approaching nearly half of the anticipated hours scheduled for 2024. We are on track to find and harvest significantly less milfoil than in previous years. So far in 2024, we have harvest 220 plants totaling just over 11 pounds. In 2023, 1,553 plants were removed totaling 46.25 pounds.

Operations - July 2024

Diver tracking. Red dots indicate locations of plants removed

moody pond plant locations july 2, 2024



July 10 '24 reported plant spotting

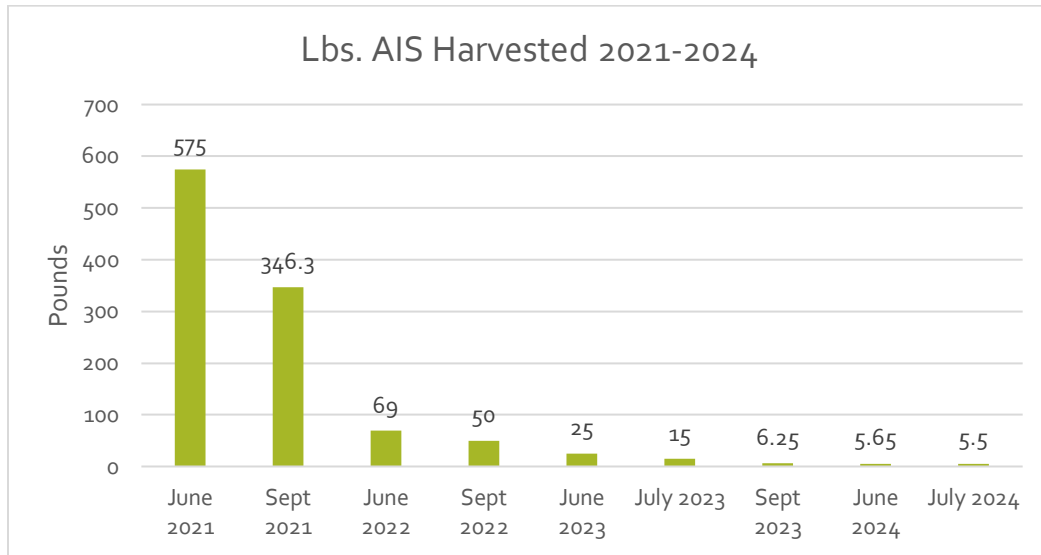


moody pond coverage & plant locations July 22, 2024

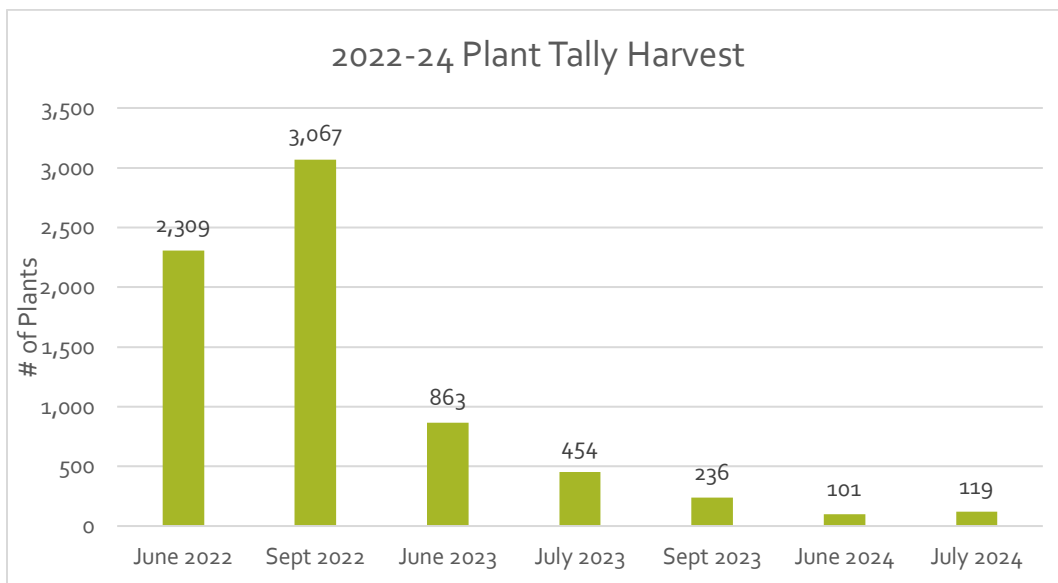


AIS Harvesting Comparisons 2021-2024

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

Our staff will continue to monitor growth throughout August and harvest invasive plants 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 plants early. 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



July 2, 2024



July 22, 2024