

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

June, 2025

Prepared By:

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



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Overview

In 2025, the Upper Saranac Foundation's Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) Team continued its partnership with the Friends of Moody Pond, which began in 2022. Prior to this, aquatic invasive species (AIS) management was conducted by Invasive Solutions Dive Company, LLC in 2021. Collectively, these sustained efforts have been highly successful—AIS is now considered rare in Moody Pond.

As in previous years, our divers operated from the private beach residence of the Dumas family. This location offers convenient access to historically infested areas, facilitating efficient and targeted management. For the 2025 season, diver work hours are projected to range between 182 and 227, depending on plant growth. This marks a significant reduction from previous seasons (360 hours in 2023 and 308 in 2024), reflecting the overall decline in both density and distribution of invasive plants.

Management activities are spread throughout the growing season, beginning in June and concluding by the end of September. In 2025 our divers will typically conduct operations in single-day stints, allowing for real-time growth monitoring and targeted harvesting. This flexible, phased approach has proven cost-effective while maintaining high efficiency.

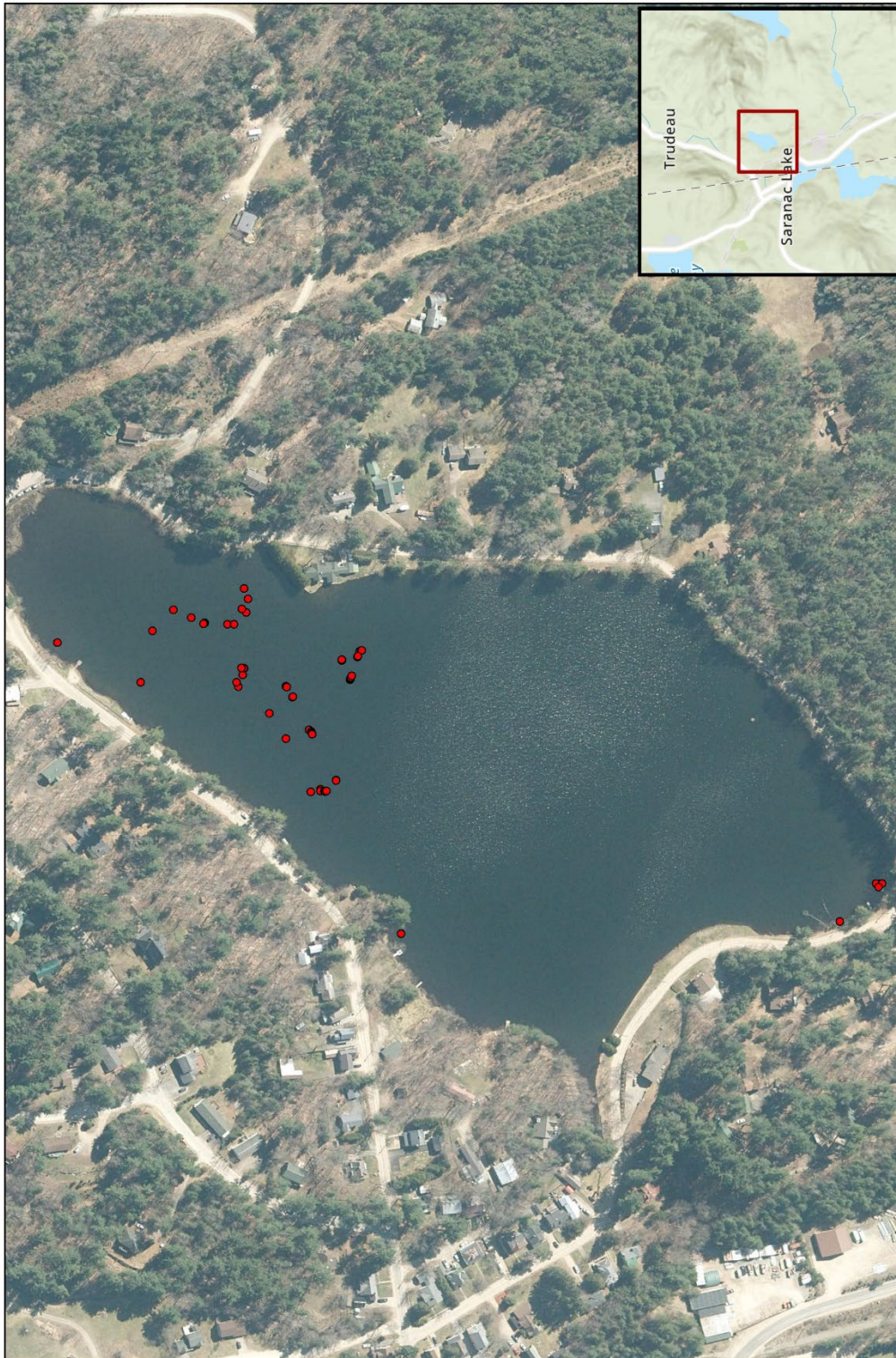
During the first 2025 session, divers focused on hand-harvesting any mature or old-growth plants, removing plants likely to fragment and spread. A combination of survey and removal methods was used, including surface spotting from paddleboards, snorkeling, grid and line swims, and Hookah air compressor diving.

Only one species of AIS was found: Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). Most plants observed were small and immature, with only one mature specimen found. This reduction in both size and quantity is a positive indicator of the long-term success of management efforts. Poundage remains low, further supporting the trend. Our divers focused on known hotspots and conducted systematic searches to ensure thorough coverage.

Harvest Data for the Week: On June 12, a five-person Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) crew—comprised of one top-water support member and four underwater divers—dedicated 50 total work hours to aquatic invasive species (AIS) management in Moody Pond. The team successfully located and removed **60 invasive plants**, with a combined estimated weight of **approximately 7.5 pounds**. This represents a continued downward trend in AIS presence: a reduction from 101 plants removed in June 2024, and a significant decline from 2,309 plants removed in June 2022, when systematic harvesting counts first began.

Operations: June 2025 - red dots indicate locations of plants removed

Moody Pond June 12, 2025 AIS Harvest Map

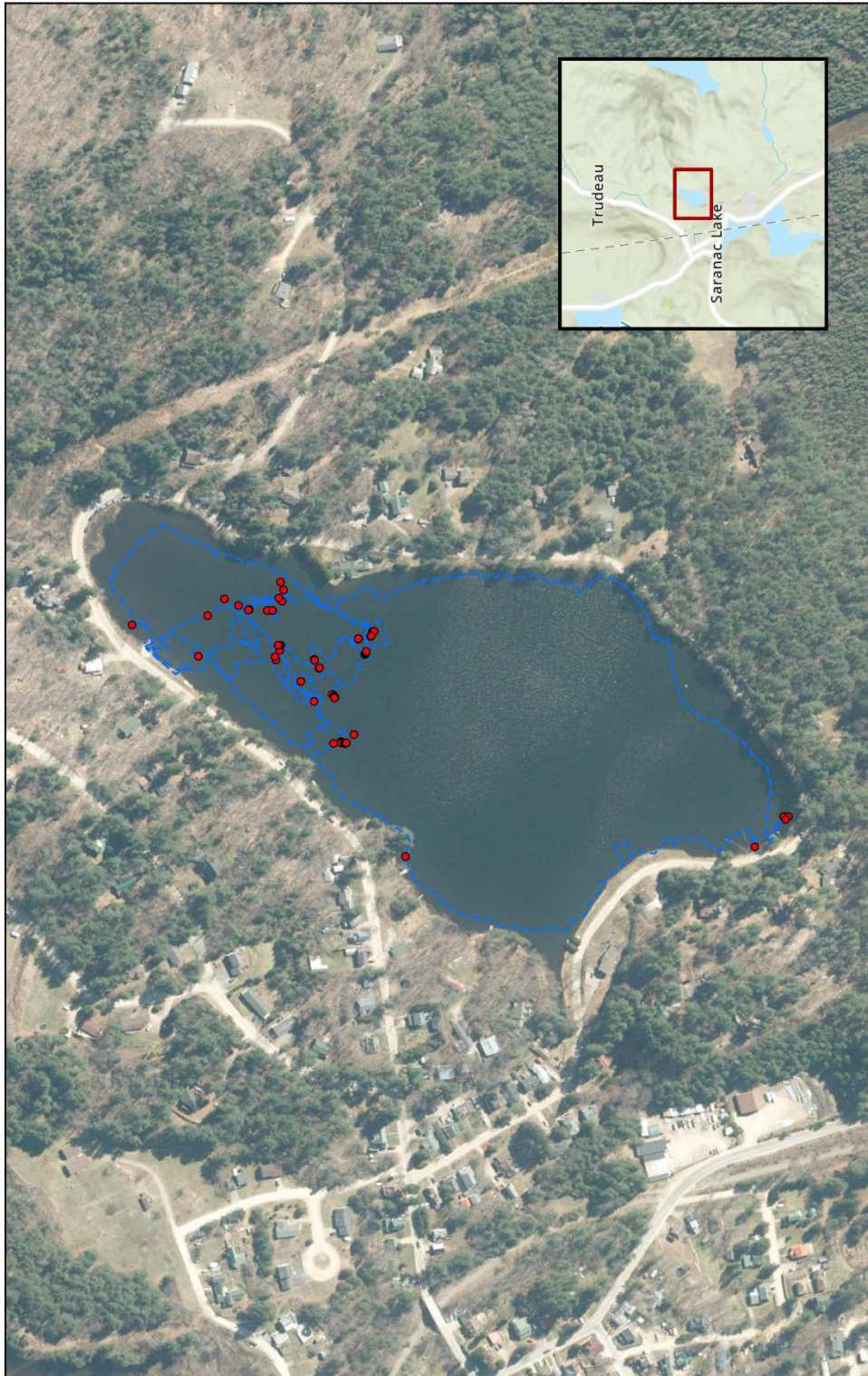


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Diver tracking. Red dots indicate locations of plants removed

Moody Pond Diver Tracking Map June 12, 2025



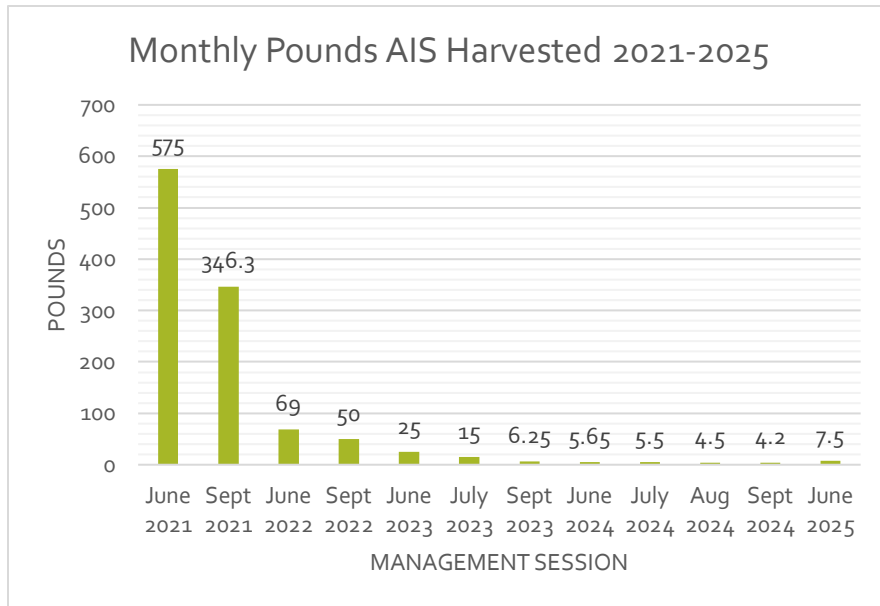
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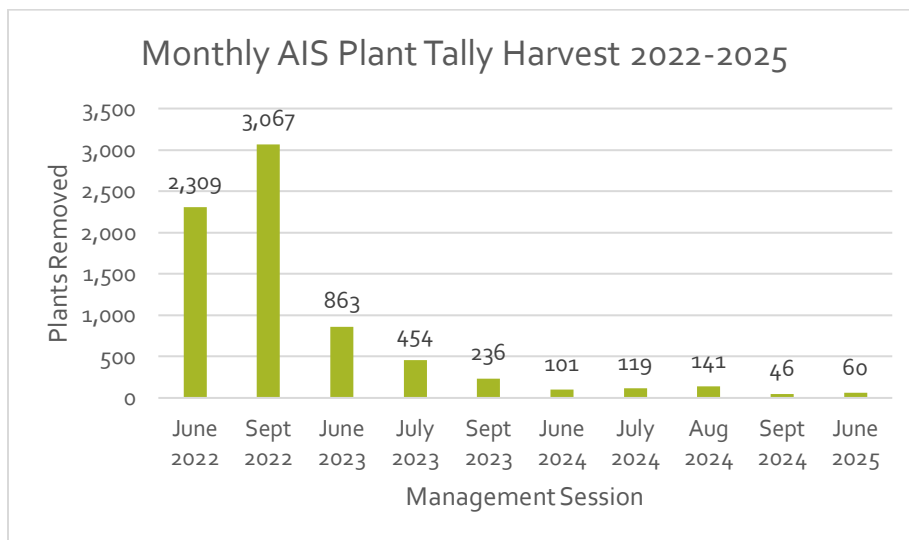
AIS Harvesting Comparisons 2021-2025

The harvest data from Moody Pond illustrates a clear and encouraging downward trend in aquatic invasive species (AIS) since management began in 2021.

In terms of **weight**, the June 2021 session saw the highest AIS harvest at 575 pounds. By June 2025, that number had dropped dramatically to just **7.5 pounds**—a **98.7% decrease**, reflecting a steady and sustained decline over five years.



Similarly, the **plant tally** shows a striking reduction. From a high of **3,067 plants removed in September 2022**, the June 2025 harvest reported just **60 plants**. This represents a **98% drop** in AIS plant count over three years.



These results highlight the ongoing success and effectiveness of persistent, targeted management efforts by the Upper Saranac Foundation’s Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) Team. Continued vigilance will be key to maintaining these hard-won gains and preventing reinfestation.

Future Plans

The Upper Saranac Foundation’s Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) team will return to Moody Pond in July to continue monitoring and managing aquatic invasive species (AIS). Based on growth observed during monitoring visits, our staff will conduct targeted harvesting. Particular attention will be given to areas where the one larger plant were previously removed, ensuring that any potential regrowth from fragmentation is detected and managed before maturing and spreading further.

This phased management approach—spaced strategically throughout the growing season—allows for the identification and removal of new growth before it becomes a larger problem. In addition to field operations, USF staff will participate in the Friends of Moody Pond Annual Ice Cream Social on August 9. We’ll be on hand to showcase our dive equipment and answer questions about the AIS management program, offering the community an inside look at how we work to protect their waters.

