

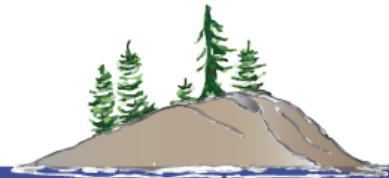
# Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

July, 2025

Prepared By:

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



Upper Saranac Foundation

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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 management sessions, our divers began operations from the private beach residence of the Dumas family. Later in the morning, the crew relocated along the shoreline to allow the family use of their beach. These locations offer convenient access to historically infested areas, enabling efficient and targeted management efforts.

AIS management for the 2025 season is scheduled to range between 182 and 227 hours, depending on the extent of invasive plant growth and harvesting needs. 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. Work is being conducted throughout the growing season, beginning in June and concluding by the end of September. Management is generally completed in single-day stints, allowing staff to monitor plant growth throughout the entire growing season. This flexible, phased approach allows for a more effective outcome at a lower overall cost. To date, a total of 80 hours of AIS survey and management has been devoted of the allocated 182 to 227 hours for the year.

Our divers employed a variety of techniques to locate and remove AIS. Using paddleboards, the team conducted visual surveys of the ponds entire littoral zone—areas where sunlight reaches the bottom and supports aquatic plant growth. In addition to surface observations, divers performed targeted underwater inspections in locations with a known history of AIS, focusing on areas where previous infestations had been documented. Shallow areas were typically surveyed through snorkeling, while deeper sections were accessed using a Hookah air compressor system, allowing for extended and efficient diving operations.

Only one species of AIS was found: Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*). During both the June and July sessions, most of the AIS plants observed were small and immature. The limited presence of mature specimens reduces the likelihood of fragmentation and propagation, which is key to preventing further spread.

This reduction in both size and quantity is a positive indicator of the long-term success of management efforts. Poundage also remains low, further supporting the trend.

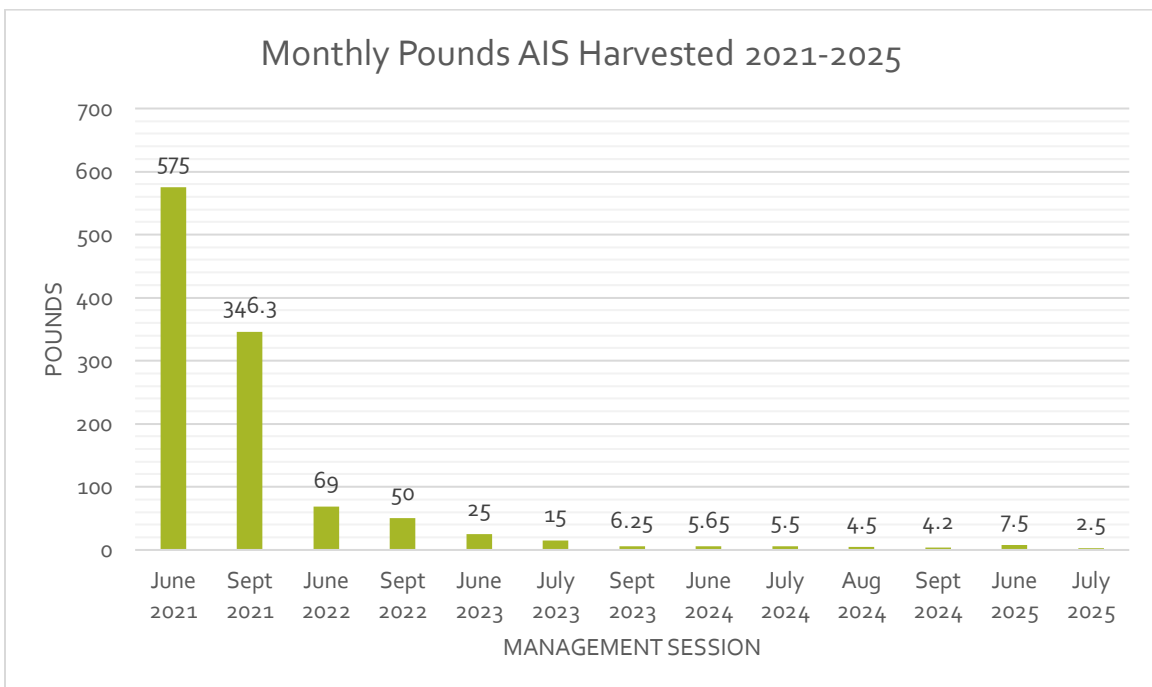
**Harvest Data - July 16, 2025:** On July 16, 2025, the Upper Saranac Foundation’s Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Dive Team devoted 30 management hours in a single day to targeted invasive species removal on Moody Pond. The team—comprised of two divers and one topwater support staff—removed a total of 21 AIS plants: 7 from the north end of the pond near Mount Baker, and 14 from the southeastern region. The combined biomass of the removal was approximately 2.5 pounds. No invasive plants were detected in the pond’s western outlet area.

Additionally, survey efforts recorded a healthy abundance of Common Bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*), a native aquatic species found in the shallow areas near Mount Baker. Though it closely resembles Eurasian watermilfoil, Common Bladderwort is a non-invasive, ecologically beneficial plant that remains undisturbed during our management operations. We share this information to reassure shoreline property owners that these native species are not overlooked infestations, but instead a valuable component of a balanced and healthy aquatic ecosystem.

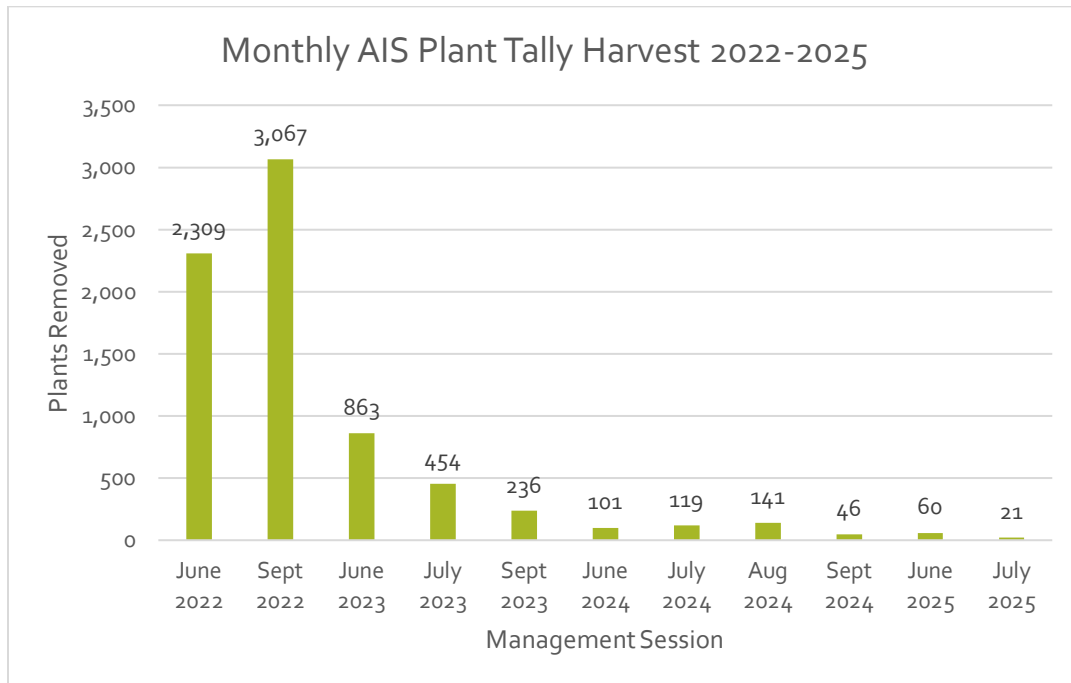
**AIS Harvesting Comparisons 2021-2025**

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 July 2025, that number had dropped dramatically to just **2.5 pounds**—a **99.5% 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 July 2025 harvest reported just **21 plants**. This represents a **99.3% 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 re-infestations.

### **Future Plans**

The Upper Saranac Foundation’s Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) team will return to Moody Pond in August 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 there has been a history of Eurasian watermilfoil, 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.

Moody Pond AIS Harvest Map July 16, 2025





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