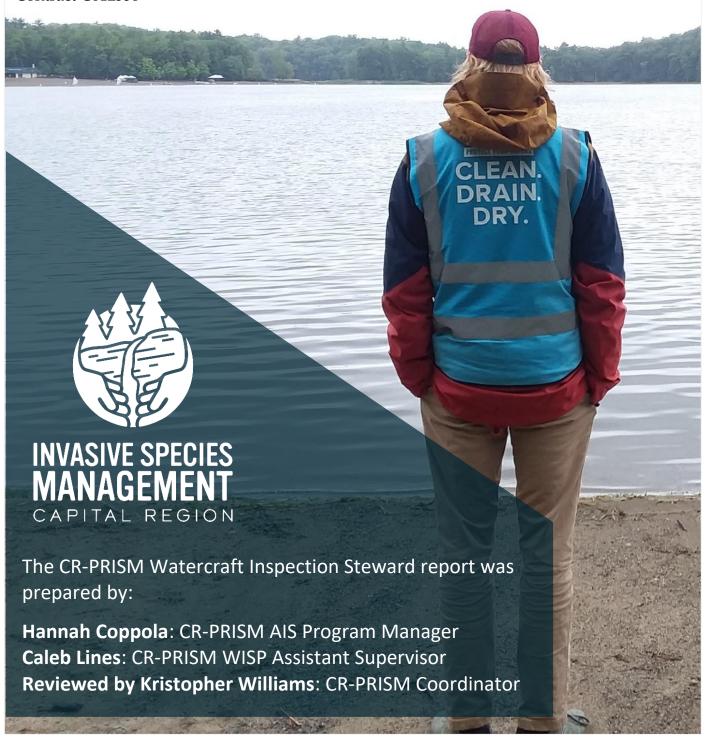
# 2023 Annual Report

Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management Watercraft Inspection Steward Program

Contract C012558



# Capital Region PRISM

## Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

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## Acknowledgements

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The Capital Region PRISM respectfully relies on the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County, its host organization, for support and staffing capacity.

#### A Special Thanks to:

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County,
The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation,
The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the New York State Invasive Species Council as well as the Invasive Species Advisory Committee and Legislator.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension** | Saratoga County



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#### **Acronyms List**

AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
AISSPP	Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Program
CCE	Cornell Cooperative Extension
CLP	Curly-leaf pondweed
CR-PRISM	Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
EWM	Eurasian water-milfoil
NYS	New York State
NYS DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
PRISM	Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
PWC	Personal Watercraft
Steward	Watercraft Steward
SUP	Stand-up Paddleboard
WB	Waterbody
WISPA	Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Application
WISP	Watercraft Inspection Steward Program

# Strategic Five-Year Accomplishments



2019-2023 CR-PRISM Watercraft Inspection Steward Program

Annual AIS Intercepted by

Prevention Measures

2019
2020
77.00%
77.20%
74.80%
2022
2023

**Boaters Taking Spread** 

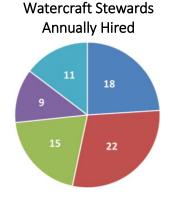
Watercraft Stewards

803

410

505

533



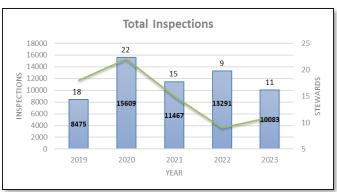


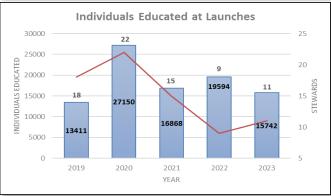


- □ 92,765 Individuals Educated
- □ 58,925 Watercraft Inspected
- 2,597 Aquatic Invasive Intercepts
- 75 Hired Watercraft Stewards
- □ 42 Priority Launch Locations
- □ 73.6% Average Spread Prevention Taken

The graph to the right depicts inspections completed from 2019-2023, accompanied by a trendline showing the number of stewards employed. As the CR-PRISM WISP Program has evolved the number of stewards decreases, while inspections remain high. Boating and inspections performed vary annually for a host of reasons such as weather, economy, and shifts in social behaviors. 58,925 watercraft inspections have been conducted within the five-year timeframe. Annual average watercraft inspected equates to 11,785, by an average of 15 stewards. Stewards are placed at high volume launch locations where they will have the greatest impact delivering Clean, Drain, Dry messaging and preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The graph to the right summarizes individuals educated by watercraft stewards, with the number of hired watercraft stewards indicated at the top of each bar. From 2019-2023, a total of 92,765 individuals have been educated by 75 watercraft stewards of Clean, Drain, Dry practices.





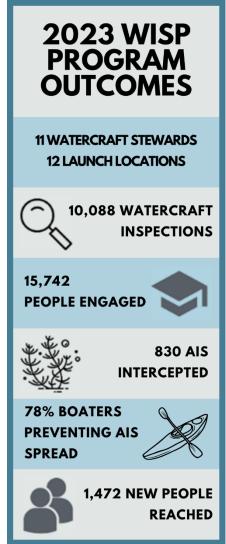
### **Abstract**

The following report summarizes data and highlights for the 2023 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Watercraft Inspection Steward Program (WISP). WISP is a deliverable as part of the administration of the Capital Region Partnership for Invasive Species Management (CR-PRISM), contract number C012558. Funding for the program is provided through the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). The CR-PRISM is hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County. The goal of the WISP program is to prevent the introduction and slow the spread of AIS in the Hudson and Mohawk River Valleys. The primary tool for the prevention program deploys voluntary watercraft inspections in which the proper procedures for Clean, Drain, Dry, are demonstrated with boaters at public launches while encouraging them to adopt those practices. The non-decontamination program removes and properly disposes of observed AIS during inspections.

The WISP contract permits the CR-PRISM to place up to 12 watercraft stewards at a possible 12 designated launch locations along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers from 2023-2027 starting the Friday before Memorial Day and ending on Labor Day each year. The designated window of operation for the program encompasses the entirety of New York State's primary boating season for each year of the contract. The ability to staff designated launch locations varies annually due to municipality agreements, approvals, safety, and public use.

2023 marks the first year in the CR-PRISMs renewed five-year contract with the NYS DEC, and the fifth-year of administering a WISP Program. Watercraft stewards prevent the spread of AIS by delivering AIS spread prevention education and outreach awareness to boaters. Watercraft stewards delivered Clean, Drain, Dry programming as outlined in the 2022 New York State Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Handbook as recommended by the NYS DEC. Watercraft stewards survey boaters on launching and retrieving watercraft while demonstrating how to inspect and remove plants and organisms from their equipment through non-decontamination voluntary watercraft inspection.

In 2023, the CR-PRISM hired eleven watercraft stewards who were placed at 12 launch locations within the CR-PRISM geographic region. Watercraft inspection stewards engaged with 15,742 individuals while inspecting 10,088 watercrafts. Stewards intercepted 830 AIS during watercraft inspections, many of which was Eurasian water-milfoil removed from retrieving watercraft. Stewards reached 1,472 new individuals with Clean, Drain, Dry messaging. Each season, new users of launch locations and visitors from outside of CR-PRISM boundaries create the gap of boaters who have not taken spread prevention measures. Maintaining a presence at high use launch areas is essential to delivering Clean, Drain, Dry messaging, and preventing the spread of AIS into new waterbodies.



### Introduction

### Overview of the Capital Region PRISM

The CR-PRISM is hosted by the CCE of Saratoga County and is financially supported through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Environmental Protection Fund. The CR-PRISM became fully funded in 2018 and has since been awarded a renewed five-year contract from 2023-2027. The CR-PRISM is a not-for-profit quasi-governmental agency. The office is staffed with a full time Aquatic, Terrestrial, Education and Outreach, and Lead Coordinator. Seasonal staff include a watercraft steward assistant supervisor, watercraft stewards, and terrestrial invasive species technicians. The CR-PRISM encompasses counties between the Adirondack and Catskill Parks covering nearly 5,000 square miles in the greater Capital Region, including the Hudson and Mohawk River Valleys. The CR-PRISM includes all of Albany, Columbia, Montgomery, Rensselaer, and Schenectady, and parts of Herkimer, Fulton, Greene, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington counties. The primary



goal of the CR-PRISM is to mitigate the spread of invasive species through prevention and education strategies, early detection, rapid response efforts, and restorative measures. The PRISM serves as a point of contact in which collaborations are fostered, resources are distributed, and information is shared. The PRISM also supports research projects.

#### Vision

To cultivate a region in which partners work together to address the harmful impacts associated with invasive species to protect its lands and waters, biodiversity, economy, and quality of life.

#### Mission

Our mission is to prevent, detect, and respond to harmful invasive species in the PRISM region through collaboration, resource sharing, strategic messaging, and education.

#### The Hudson and Mohawk Rivers and the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species

The Hudson and Mohawk Rivers are critically important waterbodies on a local and regional scale. The two rivers support a multitude of native species, both aquatic and terrestrial, and provide numerous recreational opportunities for the public. The Hudson River boasts a unique brackish ecosystem as a tidal estuary, making it an important component for our aquatic ecosystems. The Hudson Valley is also one of the most species rich regions in the Northeast, home to more than 200 fish species which include the largest remaining population of endangered Atlantic and short nose sturgeon (The Hudson Valley Conservation Strategy, Scenic Hudson, 2017).

Unfortunately, over the past few decades, invasive species have plagued both waterways and have caused numerous issues for our native species. Over 120 aquatic nonnative and invasive species have been found within the Hudson River estuary (New York State Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan, NYS DEC, July 2015). The Mohawk River has not been spared either, invaded by numerous AIS found within the Hudson River and Great Lakes due to the river's connection with each waterbody. With the Mohawk and Hudson Rivers acting as navigable commercial waterways for New York State, the two rivers act as a vector for the spread of invasive species to other waterbodies (some entirely uninvaded by AIS) throughout and across state boundaries. Thus, the implementation of a watercraft inspection steward program along these corridors that actively engages and educates the public about the techniques to prevent the spread of AIS is imperative. Watercraft stewards are placed at key launch locations along both the Hudson and the Mohawk Rivers, resulting in the reduced likelihood of aquatic non-native and invasive species spreading to other waterbodies.

## **Program Description and Methods**

### **Background**

The Watercraft Inspection Steward Program (WISP) adds great value to the NYS DEC by aiding in accomplishing the goals of the New York State Comprehensive Invasive Species Management Plan (2018). Among the initiatives of the Management Plan are the goals of (1) engaging and informing the public and (2) advancing prevention and early detection of invasive species. The deployment of the WISP program by the CR-PRISM fulfills these comprehensive goals. Recreational boaters at designated launch locations are educated on best practices to limit AIS spread during Clean, Drain, Dry inspections through-out portions of the Hudson



Image 1: Watercraft Steward Madison Wright's table at Dutchman's Landing launch.

and Mohawk River drainage basins. The CR-PRISM WISP program was first administered by the CCE of Saratoga from 2019-2022 with a continuation of program deliverables under a new contract from 2023-2027.

Watercraft stewards are stationed at public boat launches to provide education on the treats of AIS and help prevent AIS transport from each location (if present) and prevent new AIS introductions. Watercraft stewards provide voluntary, non-decontamination inspections for watercraft recreationists. One of the goals of the inspections is to train the public on how to prevent the spread of AIS; this is achieved through participation in the inspection process, ultimately encouraging a behavioral change that motivates individuals to practice Clean, Drain, Dry standards independently.

Stewards are direct hires, recruited through multiple platforms including employment agencies, social media, and online recruitment services. Watercraft stewards work on a full-time, seasonal basis from the Friday of Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day week. Stewards typically work Thursday-Monday from 7:00am-3:30pm, totaling 640 hours for the season. The majority of watercraft stewards are stationed at one-three high use launch locations. The original parameters of the AISSPP contract allowed for up to 26 watercraft stewards to be hired at 29 launch locations. Contractual locations were modified for the 2023 season by the NYS DEC and the CR-PRISM to better facilitate programmatic deliverables at higher use sites based on data collected from 2020-2022.

### **Watercraft Inspection Steward Training**

Prior to the start of the season, watercraft stewards participated in a three-day training program designed to familiarize employees with the technical responsibilities of the job. Training was standardized based on protocol outlined in the 2022 New York State Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Handbook as recommended by the NYS DEC. The programmatic instruction covered core topics relating to native and non-native species identification, standardized inspection process, regulations surrounding AIS in NYS, conduct and safety, and review of the WISPA application for data collection. Additional topics included iMapInvasives, interactions with the public, and mock inspections. Breakout groups aided in the identification of live species samples, which provided examples of the variations and similarities between species.



Image 2: 2023 WISP Program Training, breakout groups for AIS identification.

Training instruction was provided by PRISM coordinator Kristopher Williams, AIS program manager Hannah Coppola, and the Watercraft Steward Assistant Supervisor. A prerecorded program outlining Ken Donnelly's behavioral messaging was presented, emphasizing the importance of message perception that encourages the general public to adopt conservation practices. Watercraft stewards additionally participated in human resources orientation and training for the CCE of Saratoga County. A virtual reinforced training was provided soon after the start of the season, administered by the AIS Program Manager and WISP Assistant Supervisor. Species identification, steward expectations, and interacting with the public were reviewed. Through this training and in the field updates, WISPA data showed growth in positive native/invasive species identification.

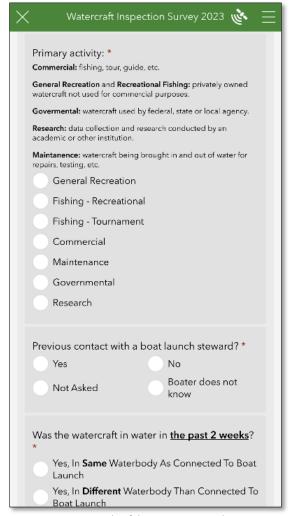
### Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Methods

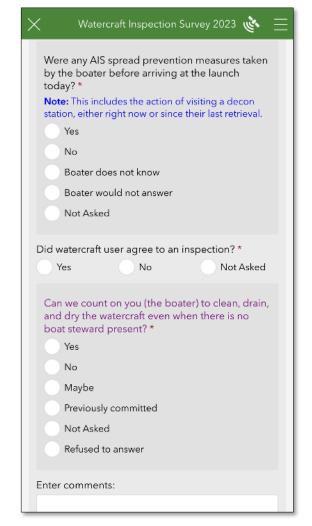
Watercraft stewards received standardized training protocol, equipment, personal protective gear and outreach materials to deploy the program. Stewards were instructed to place workstations in highly visible locations out of the path of traffic, in order to increase public awareness of steward presence and reduce safety concerns. All stewards wore highly visible blue shirts indicating that they worked for the CR-PRISM as well as a semi-reflective blue safety vest with Clean, Drain, Dry messaging.

Data collection for inspections was collected on a tablet using a Survey123 form created specifically for the WISP program; this survey is called the Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Application (WISPA). Metrics included type and number of watercrafts, primary activity performed, group size, state of boat registration, date and time of arrival, whether the group was launching or retrieving, and what waterbody the watercraft had been in within the last 2 weeks. The survey also collected metrics on what spread prevention measures the boater had taken, if the boater had interacted with a watercraft steward in the past, and record of any plant or animal species found during an inspection. The final metric covers Ken Donnelly's behavioral messaging, "Can we count on you to Clean, Drain, and Dry your watercraft even when there is no boat steward present?"

During launching and retrieving inspections, boaters were asked to assist the steward in conducting an inspection to encourage behavior change. Boaters were trained to remove visible organic matter found, and to drain all water. Stewards were not permitted to board any watercraft to inspect gear or compartments, instead they encouraged the boater to inspect these areas themselves. These actions greatly reduce the chances of AIS being introduced into new waterbodies. This practice also informs boaters where to look for plant and/or animal matter following Clean, Drain, Dry

practices.





Images 3&4: Screengrabs of the 2023 WISPA Application

## 2023 Summary of Results

The following section provides a comprehensive summary of CR-PRISM 2023 WISP Program outcomes. The first portion of the summary outlines boater's primary activity, if recreational users implemented AIS spread prevention measures, and interceptions of AIS. Additional comprehensive results outlining launch coverage and watercraft types is located in Appendix A. Outcomes from the 2023 Program showed that 11 stewards stationed at 12 priority launch locations inspected 10,088 watercrafts, and interacted with a total of 15,485 individuals (including all individuals in group). Through these inspections' watercraft stewards prevented the spread of 830 aquatic invasive species; many of which were Eurasian water-milfoil from retrieving watercraft. The majority of species intercepts found on retrieving boats exemplifies the positive trend of boaters taking spread prevention measures prior to arriving at launch locations. Watercraft stewards complete each WISPA survey by asking boaters the Clean, Drain, Dry commitment question. The majority of boaters agreed to the commitment question (3,887) while others previously committed (1,968). A smaller number of boaters respond with no, maybe or refused to answer (118). New Clean, Drain, Dry commitments (1,472) demonstrate the importance of watercraft stewards; this metric is determined when boaters indicate they have not previously spoken with a watercraft steward, and agree to both an inspection and commitment question.

### **AIS Spread Prevention Awareness**

The number of boaters who performed prevention measures are depicted in table two. The table includes the specific measure of prevention taken by recreational boaters by launch location. Many boaters take more than one spread prevention measure which is entered into WISPA surveys by watercraft stewards. Boaters most commonly dried their watercraft between launch locations (5,589) and second most commonly washed their watercraft (5,459). During the 2023 WISP season 78% (7,857) of boaters at each launch stated that they take spread prevention measures, while 22% (2,178) of boaters that said they do not take prevention measures. Justifications for not taking spread prevention measures include first launch of the season, or if the boater only launches in the same waterbody; these outcomes are viewable in Table 2 below. The gap of boaters not taking spread prevention measures prior to arriving at the launch location illustrates the need of Clean, Drain, Dry messaging at high-use launches.

Table 2: Comprehensive Summary of Boater Awareness AIS Spread Prevention, 2023

Launch Location	Inspect	Dry	Wash	Drain Bilge	Livewell	Bait	Decon	First Launch	Same WB	Asked	Yes	% Yes
Alcathy's/Lock 6	111	225	174	146	5	0	1	3	3	328	320	98%
Cossayuna Lake	1475	1143	1671	264	45	1	6	65	84	2111	1933	92%
<b>Dutchman's Landing</b>	4	300	441	321	7	6	0	4	118	708	566	80%
Freeman's Bridge	73	177	47	45	12	0	0	34	6	329	262	80%
Germantown	0	72	85	49	3	1	1	0	13	118	104	88%
Henry Hudson Park	0	146	116	78	23	5	1	16	49	229	158	69%
Hudson River Public Boat Launch	1	41	22	13	1	1	0	7	29	77	42	55%
Kiwanis/Rotterdam Park	1	86	95	16	9	8	3	105	45	325	139	43%
Moreau Lake State Park	286	396	483	0	1	0	0	263	157	1171	672	57%
Round Lake	27	2164	1590	266	15	0	6	591	12	2938	2255	77%
Schoharie Crossing	2	324	288	88	65	14	4	33	27	499	424	85%
Waterford Point/Battery Park	467	515	447	107	19	0	0	80	165	1292	982	76%
Totals	2447	5589	5459	1393	205	36	22	1201	708	10125	7857	78%

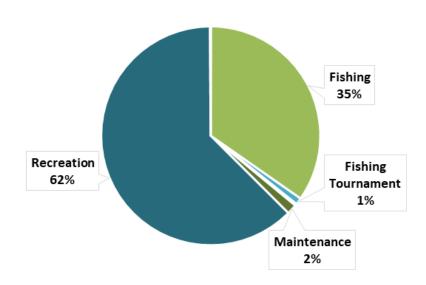
### **Boater Activity Type**

While completing the WISPA survey, stewards observed and recorded the primary activities of boaters. The most common reason for use of launches was recreation (63%) followed by fishing (35%). Recreation was the most common boater activity at launches excluding Cossayuna Lake, where fishing was the most frequent boater activity. New to the 2023 WISPA survey was fishing tournaments; this data is anticipated to assist in knowing to provide coverage to locations with annual tournament events. Cossayuna Lake and Waterford Point show to be the highest volume locations with these tournaments. The sum of primary activities equates to the total watercraft observed visiting launches.

Table 1: Comprehensive Summary of Primary Activity of Watercraft Operators, 2023

Launch Location	Commercial	Fishing	Government	Fishing Tourt	Maintenance	Recreation	Research	Total
Alcathy's/Lock 6	3	156	1	1	16	159	0	336
Cossayuna Lake	0	1282	27	6	9	803	0	2127
Dutchman's Landing	0	45	3	0	13	653	0	714
Freeman's Bridge	0	159	0	4	2	206	1	372
Germantown	0	8	0	4	0	106	0	118
Henry Hudson Park	0	47	0	0	20	167	0	234
Hudson River Public Launch	0	12	0	3	11	57	0	83
Kiwanis/Rotterdam Park	0	73	9	0	25	229	0	336
Moreau Lake State Park	0	398	0	0	0	773	0	1171
Round Lake	0	1021	2	1	39	1873	8	2944
Schoharie	0	195	30	3	15	268	0	511
Waterford Point/Battery Park	1	139	0	7	4	1141	2	1294
Grand Total	4	3535	72	29	154	6435	11	10240
% of Watercraft Observed	0.04%	35%	1%	0.28%	1.50%	63%	0.11%	

### **Primary Activity Performed**



### **Organism Interceptions**

Table 3 provides a summary of AIS intercepted on inspected watercraft. Stewards conduct inspections on both launching and retrieving watercrafts. The most common invasive species found on watercraft was Eurasian water-milfoil (412), followed by curly-leaf pondweed (180), water chestnut (120), zebra mussels (76), and brittle naiad (42). Round Lake had the highest volume of AIS intercepts (460); a large portion of these intercepts was the result of Eurasian water-milfoil from retrieving watercraft. Cossayuna had the second highest number of intercepts (130) followed by Waterford Point (80). In total, 830 AIS were intercepted with no new species of AIS detected. Out of the 1,813 total species intercepted, 54% were identified as native species. The table below provides intercepts of AIS only; tables separating this information by launching and retrieving AIS intercepts is located in Appendix C, tables 6 and 7.

Table 3: Comprehensive Summary of Aquatic Invasive Species Intercepts on Inspected Watercraft, 2023

Launch Location	Zebra Mussel	Eurasian water- milfoil	Brittle Naiad	CLP	Water Chestnut	Total Invasives Detected
Alcathy's/Lock 6	0	0	0	2	34	36
Cossayuna Lake	56	51	0	23	0	130
Dutchman's Landing	11	17	2	2	34	66
Freemans Bridge	1	0	0	1	1	3
Germantown	0	3	1	0	20	24
Henry Hudson Park	0	2	0	0	6	8
Hudson River Public Boat Launch	0	0	0	0	6	6
Kiwanis/Rotterdam Park	2	1	4	0	2	9
Moreau Lake State Park	0	4	0	0	0	4
Round Lake	1	313	1	145	0	460
Schoharie Crossing	3	1	0	0	0	4
Waterford Point/Battery Park	2	20	34	7	17	80
Totals	76	412	42	180	120	830

## 2023 Capital Region PRISM WISP Launch Profiles

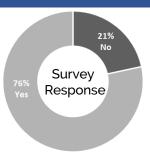
The following section provides comprehensive summaries of the CR-PRISMs twelve 2023 WISP launch locations. Each launch locations shows a set of diagrams demonstrating the number of retrieving and launching surveys, number of participants responding to the WISP survey, and total organisms detected. A difference in survey direction (launching & retrieving) is attributed to boaters using the launch outside of steward work hours, but still captured either entering or exiting the water. Additional pie graphs include organism type (native vs. non-native) and new commitments to Clean, Drain, Dry practices. New commitment percentages are extracted from WISPA metrics by taking those who indicate never previously interacting with a watercraft steward and commit to taking prevention measures even when a watercraft steward is not present.

Additionally, it is important to note that the total number of surveys uploaded differs from the number of watercraft types reported; this is due to the ability to upload multiple watercraft in a group under one WISPA survey. Following these pie graphs, is each launch locations total watercraft types observed, primary activity reported, and species detected on launching and retrieving watercraft (invasive species are represented with red text). Fluctuations in annual AIS intercepts are located in the bar graph at the bottom of each launch profile, and provide an idea of boaters' susceptibility to unknowingly transporting AIS from a launch location. Select launch profiles include spider diagrams depicting where boaters have reported previously launching, this information is critical in understanding movements of potential high-threat AIS. Some launch locations have limited historical data, and spider diagrams are not available. Prior to individual launch profiles, a 2023 program summary report outlines overall metrics from the successful season.

# 2023 Program Summary Report CR-PRISM Watercraft Inspection Steward Program



7,680 Total Program Surveys Uploaded



Boaters Agreed to Survey



1,813 Total Organisms Detected

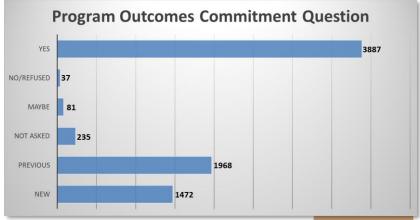


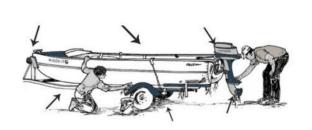
Commitment Question Outcome

Summary of Species Detected				
Species	Launching	Retrieving		
Brittle naiad	8	34		
CLP	14	166		
EWM	27	385		
Hydrilla	0	0		
Water chestnut	35	85		
Zebra mussel	16	60		
Attached debris	120	194		
Bladderwort	2	18		
Coontail	13	312		
Eel grass	16	153		
N. Elodea	18	233		
N. Pondlily	0	10		
N. Pondweed	13	43		
Written In-Species	152 (Native Species)			

Program Total Watercraft Types Observed at Launch Locations					
Kayak	4867	Rowboat	186		
Canoe	405	Sailboat	34		
Dock	5	SUP	634		
Motorboat	3684	Windsurfer	1		
PWC	424	Barge	0		

Summary of Primary Activity Reported			
Commercial	4		
Fishing	3535		
Fishing Tournament	72		
Government	29		
Maintenance	154		
Recreation	6435		
Research	11		







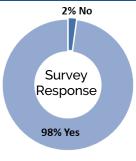


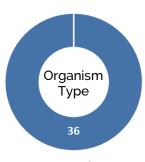


# Alcathy's/Lock Six Launch 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE











317 Total Surveys Uploaded

Water chestnut

Attached debris

**Boaters Agreed** to Survey

36 Organisms Detected

5% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

Watercraft Types Observed				
Kayak	11	Rowboat	0	
Canoe	0	Sailboat	1	
Dock	0	SUP	0	
Motorboat	270	Windsurfer	0	
PWC	54	Barge	0	

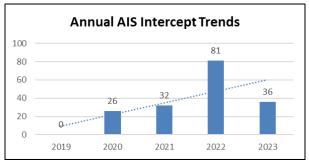
Primary Activity Reported					
Commercial	3				
Fishing	156				
Fishing Tournament	1				
Government	1				
Maintenance	16				
Recreation	159				
Research	0				

			De 255
	184 HA 19	Awk Rive	Town of Waterford
Vischer Ferry		State Canal Park Eng	LOX 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Historic Preserve		Cohoes	T No
Ghakers Creet	1	Scha Islan	ick

**Species Detected Launching Only Curly leaf pondweed** 2 4 3

Alcathy's/Lock 6 launch is located in Saratoga County off of Flightlock Road on the Mohawk River. Watercraft steward coverage began on 5/25-8/21, on Thursday's & Monday's. A small kayak rental is available to the public and contributes to survey's uploaded.

Species Detected Retrieving Only	
Water chestnut	30





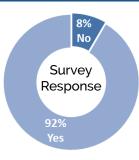


# Cossayuna Lake 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE

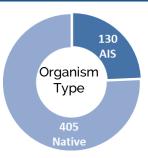




1,803 Total Surveys Uploaded



Boaters Agreed to Survey



535 Organisms Detected



6% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

Watercraft Types Observed				
Kayak	574	Rowboat	55	
Canoe	46	Sailboat	6	
Dock	1	SUP	63	
Motorboat	1289	Windsurfer	0	
PWC	93	Barge	0	

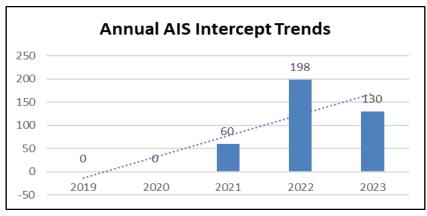
Primary Activity Reported				
Commercial	0			
Fishing	1282			
Fishing Tournament	27			
Government	6			
Maintenance	9			
Recreation	803			
Research	0			

Species Detected				
Launching		Retrieving		
CLP	3	CLP	20	
Zebra Mussel	2	Zebra mussel	54	
EWM	2	EWM	49	
Bladderwort	1	Bladderwort	1	
Coontail	4	Coontail	136	
Native elodea	6	Native Elodea	183	
N. Pondweed	0	N. Pondweed	4	
Native lily	0	Native lily	1	
Eel grass	0	Eel grass	14	
Attached debris	0	Attached debris	8	

Boater Previous Waterbodies, General Annual Locations



Cossayuna lake is located in Saratoga county, and is considered the second most visited site of the CR-PRISM WISP program. Steward coverage began weekly on 5/25-8/21. The spider diagram shows waterbodies boaters previously launched in.



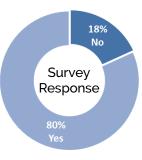


# Dutchman's Landing 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE

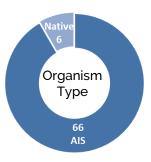




659 Total Surveys Uploaded



Boaters Agreed to Survey



72 Organisms Detected



13% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

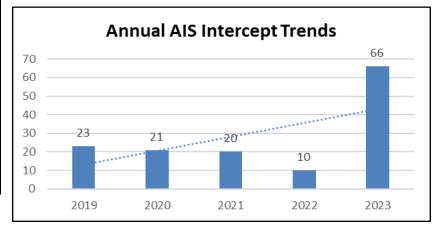
Watercraft Types Observed				
Kayak	132	Rowboat	2	
Canoe	6	Sailboat	6	
Dock	0	SUP	1	
Motorboat	454	Windsurfer	0	
PWC	113	Barge	0	

<b>Primary Activity Reported</b>		
Commercial	0	
Fishing	45	
Fishing Tournament	3	
Government	0	
Maintenance	13	
Recreation	653	
Research	0	



**Dutchman's Landing is located in Greene county, on the Hudson River near Catskill Creek**. Steward coverage began 5/25-8/21 from Friday's-Sunday's. A park and playground are located near the launch, increasing public outreach.

Species Detected			
Launching	Launching Retrieving		
CLP	1	CLP	1
Zebra Mussel	10	Zebra mussel	1
EWM	3	EWM	14
<b>Water Chestnut</b>	stnut 12 Water chestnut 1		22
Brittle naiad	0	Brittle naiad	2
Coontail	0	Coontail	1
Native Elodea	0	Native Elodea	1
N. Pondweed	0	N. Pondweed	1
Eel grass	0	Eel grass	2
<b>Attached Debris</b>	2	Attached debris	1



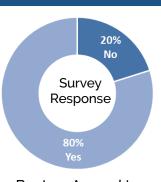


# Freeman's Bridge Launch 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE

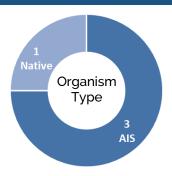




338 Total Surveys Uploaded



Boaters Agreed to Survey



Organisms Detected



20% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

Watercraft Types Observed				
Kayak	80	Rowboat	0	
Canoe	4	Sailboat	0	
Dock	0	SUP	0	
Motorboat	251	Windsurfer	0	
PWC	37	Barge	0	

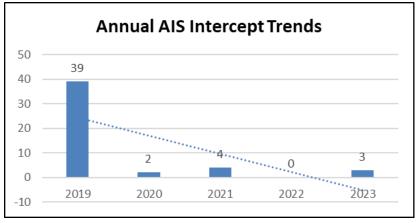
Primary Activity Reported			
Commercial	0		
Fishing	159		
Fishing Tournament	0		
Government	4		
Maintenance	2		
Recreation	206		
Research	1		

Species Detected				
Launching Retrieving				
CLP	0	Zebra mussel	1	
Water chestnut	0	CLP	1	
Attached Debris	1	Water chestnut	1	
Coontail	0	Coontail	1	





Freeman's Bridge Boat Launch is located in Schenectady County, on the Mohawk River. Steward coverage began 6/18-8/21 on Thursday's & Mondays. A motorized watercraft ramp as well as a kayak launch is available to the public.



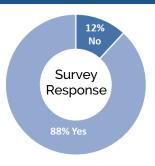


# Germantown/Ernest R Lasher Memorial Park 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE

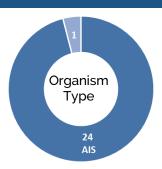




118 Total Surveys Uploaded



Boaters Agreed to Survey



Organisms Detected

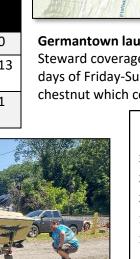


9% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

Watercraft Types Observed			
Kayak	8	Rowboat	12
Canoe	1	Sailboat	0
Dock	0	SUP	4
Motorboat	64	Windsurfer	0
PWC	29	Barge	0

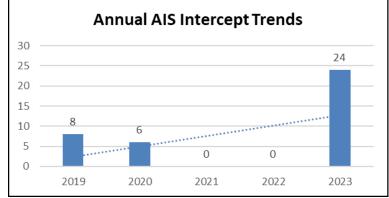
Primary Activity Reported				
Commercial	0			
Fishing	8			
Fishing Tournament	0			
Government	4			
Maintenance	0			
Recreation	106			
Research	0			

<b>Species Detected</b>				
Launching Retrieving				
EWM	3	EWM	0	
Brittle	1	Water	13	
naiad		chestnut		
Water	7	N.	1	
chestnut		pondweed		





**Germantown launch is located in Columbia County on the Hudson River.** Steward coverage began 5/25-8/21 during the highest launch use volume days of Friday-Sunday. Close to this area is a high infestation of water chestnut which contributes to AIS intercepts.



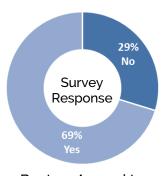


# Henry Hudson Park Launch 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE

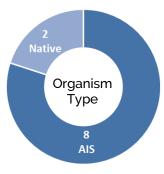




226 Total Surveys Uploaded



Boaters Agreed to Survey



Organisms Detected



18% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

Watercraft Types Observed				
Kayak	23	Rowboat	2	
Canoe	5	Sailboat	2	
Dock	1	SUP	0	
Motorboat	178	Windsurfer	0	
PWC	23	Barge	0	

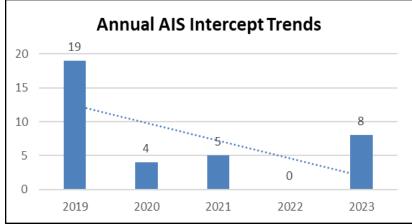
Primary Activity Reported		
Commercial	0	
Fishing	47	
Fishing Tournament	0	
Government	0	
Maintenance	20	
Recreation	167	
Research	0	

		II .		
Species Detected				
Launching		Retrieving		
Water chestnut	4	Water chestnut	2	
EWM	2	Coontail	1	
Eel grass	0	Eel grass	1	
Attached dehris	15	Attached dehris	3	





Henry Hudson Park is located in Albany County on the Hudson River. Steward coverage began 5/25-9/3 during the highest launch use volume days of Friday-Sunday.



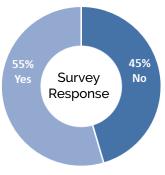


# Hudson River Public Boat Launch 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE

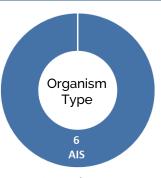




81 Total Surveys Uploaded



Boaters Agreed to Survey



Organisms Detected



28% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

Watercraft Types Observed				
Kayak	5	Rowboat	2	
Canoe	23	Sailboat	1	
Dock	0	SUP	0	
Motorboat	44	Windsurfer	0	
PWC	8	Barge	0	

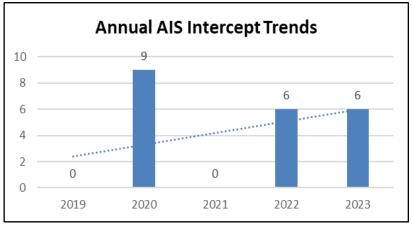
Primary Activity Reported		
Commercial	0	
Fishing	12	
Fishing Tournament	0	
Government	3	
Maintenance	11	
Recreation	57	
Research	0	



**Hudson Public Launch is located in Columbia County on the Hudson River.** Steward coverage began 5/25-8/31 on Thursdays and Mondays.

Species Detected				
Launching Retrieving				
Water chestnut	3	Water chestnut	3	
Attached debris	7	Attached debris	0	





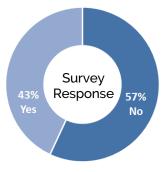


# Kiwanis/Rotterdam Park Launch 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE

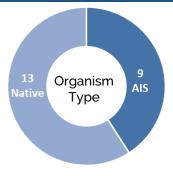




253 Total Surveys Uploaded



**Boaters Agreed** to Survey



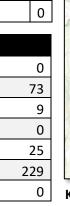
41% Organisms **Detected AIS** 



20% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

Watercraft Types Observed				
Kayak	135	Rowboat	1	
Canoe	50	Sailboat	0	
Dock	0	SUP	5	
Motorboat	119	Windsurfer	0	
PWC	26	Barge	0	

<b>Primary Activity Reported</b>		
Commercial	0	
Fishing	73	
Fishing Tournament	9	
Government	0	
Maintenance	25	
Recreation	229	
Research	0	

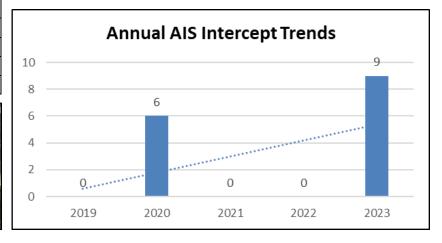




Kiwanis/Rotterdam Park is located in Schenectady County on the Mohawk River. Steward coverage began 5/25-7/26 Monday-Friday. Steward placement was reduced based on program needs midseason.







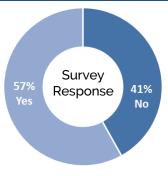


# Moreau Lake State Park Launch 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE

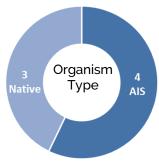




647 Total Surveys Uploaded



Boaters Agreed to Survey



Organisms Detected



17% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

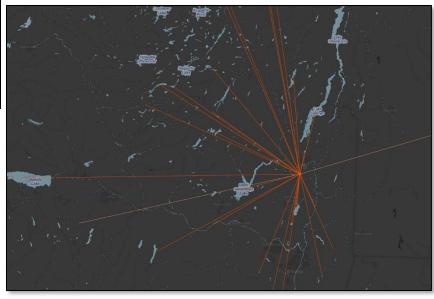
Watercraft Types Observed				
Kayak	813	Rowboat	47	
Canoe	91	Sailboat	1	
Dock	0	SUP	218	
Motorboat	1	Windsurfer	0	
PWC	0	Barge	0	

Primary Activity Reported				
Commercial	0			
Fishing	73			
Fishing Tournament	9			
Government	0			
Maintenance	25			
Recreation	229			
Research	0			

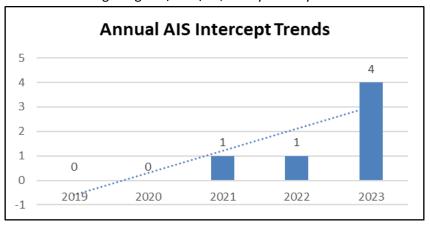
Species Detected			
Launching Retrieving			
EWM	0	EWM	4
Attached debris 1 Attached debris			



Boater Previous Waterbodies, General Annual Locations



Moreau Lake State Park is located in Saratoga County, and owned by the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Steward coverage began 5/25-8/14, Friday-Sundays.



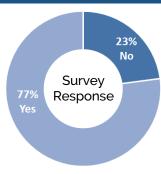


# Round Lake DEC Boat Launch 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE

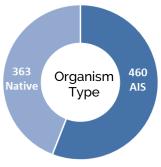








Boaters Agreed to Survey



55.8% Organisms Detected AIS



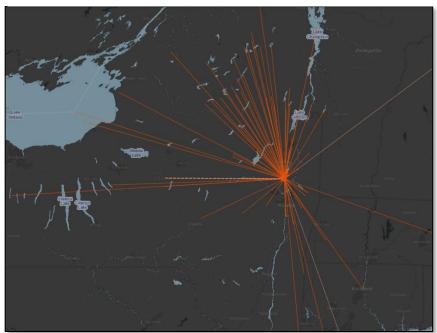
20% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

Watercraft Types Observed				
Kayak	1730	Rowboat	54	
Canoe	116	Sailboat	16	
Dock	1	SUP	321	
Motorboat	701	Windsurfer	1	
PWC	4	Barge	0	

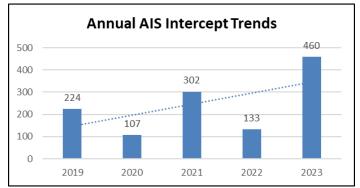
Primary Activity Reported				
Commercial	0			
Fishing	1021			
Fishing Tournament	2			
Government	1			
Maintenance	39			
Recreation	1873			
Research	8			

Species Detected					
Launching		Retrieving			
EWM	9	EWM	304		
Zebra mussel	1	Brittle naiad	1		
CLP	5	CLP	140		
Coontail	5	Coontail	173		
N. Elodea	0	N. Elodea	20		
N. pondweed	0	N. pondweed	9		
N. lily	0	N. lily	9		
Bladderwort	1	Bladderwort	17		
Eel grass	2	Eel grass	51		
Attached					
debris	0	Attached debris	54		

Boater Previous Waterbodies, General Annual Locations



**Round Lake is located in Saratoga County,** and is considered to have the highest boater traffic within the CR-PRISM WISP Program. Two full-time Watercraft Stewards began 5/25-9/4, Thursdays - Mondays.



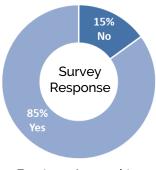


# Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site Launch 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE

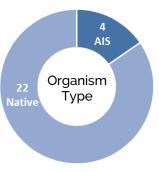




409 Total Surveys Uploaded



Boaters Agreed to Survey



Organisms Detected



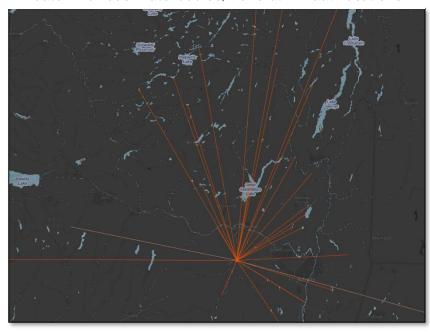
14% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

Watercraft Types Observed						
Kayak	203 Rowboat					
Canoe	18	Sailboat	1			
Dock	0	SUP	6			
Motorboat	240	Windsurfer	0			
PWC	34	Barge	0			

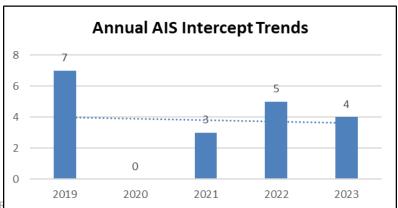
Primary Activity Reported					
Commercial	0				
Fishing	195				
Fishing Tournament	30				
Government	3				
Maintenance	15				
Recreation	268				
Research	0				

Species Detected							
Launching Retrieving							
Zebra mussel	1	Zebra mussel	2				
EWM	1	EWM	0				
Coontail	1	Coontail	0				
N. elodea	1	N. elodea	0				
N. pondweed	5	N. pondweed	4				
Eel Grass	1	Eel grass	2				
Attached debris	37	Attached debris	54				

Boater Previous Waterbodies, General Annual Locations



Schoharie Crossing Launch is located in Montgomery County on the Mohawk River. Steward coverage began 7/6-9/4. This remote location saw the highest volume of fishing tournament launch users.



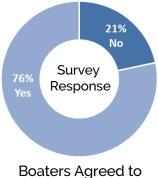
2023 WISP Year-End Report – Capital F

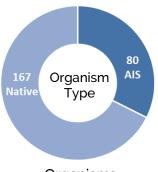


# Waterford Point/Battery Park Launch 2023 CAPITAL REGION PRISM LAUNCH PROFILE











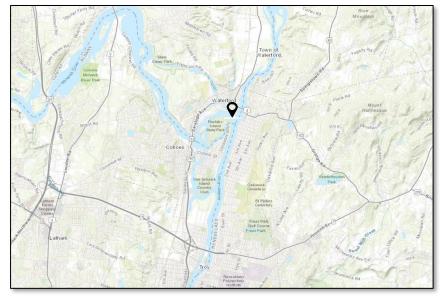
655 Total Surveys Boaters Agre Uploaded Survey

Organisms Detected

11% New Clean, Drain, Dry Commitments

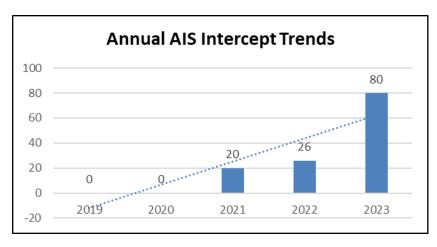
Watercraft Types Observed						
Kayak 1153 Rowboat						
Canoe	45	Sailboat	0			
Dock	2	SUP	16			
Motorboat	73	Windsurfer	0			
PWC	3	Barge	0			

Primary Activity Reported					
Commercial	1				
Fishing	139				
Fishing Tournament	0				
Government	7				
Maintenance	4				
Recreation	1141				
Research	2				



Waterford Point Boat Launch is located in Saratoga County. Steward coverage began 5/25-9/3. A small kayak rental is available to the public and contributes to survey's uploaded.

Species Detected							
Launching Retrieving							
EWM	7	EWM	13				
Brittle naiad	7	Brittle naiad	27				
CLP	3	CLP	4				
Water chestnut	4	Water chestnut	13				
Coontail	3	Zebra mussel	2				
N. elodea	11	N. elodea	29				
N. pondweed	3	N. pondweed	18				
Eel grass	13	Eel grass	81				
Attached debris	4	Attached debris	4				



### Conclusion

The Capital Region PRISM hosted by the CCE of Saratoga County, successfully completed its fifth full-scale WISP season. The CR-PRISM's eleven watercraft stewards educated 15,742 individuals at 12 locations over the duration of the 2023 boating season, inspecting 10,088 watercrafts and intercepting 830 aquatic invasive species. Enhanced training methodologies will be deployed in 2024 for program improvements. Additional enrichment will occur on site at locations to maintain and improve employee performance and program delivery. Follow-up training topics will be based on program needs, primarily focusing on difficult species identification, interacting with the public, and maintaining safety. Available WISPA metric results will be shared to encourage program inclusion. To best assist stewards in future WISP program years, it is recommended to create a list of annual events (fishing tournaments, boat races, etc.) at CR-PRISM WISP launches, allowing for staffing at locations receiving increased traffic.

Without the enthusiasm, support and perseverance of all watercraft stewards, this program would not be what it is today. Watercraft stewards are the first line of defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species. The CR-PRISM is proud to have had 12 (including supervisor) outstanding staff in 2023 that helped continue to spread the message of Clean, Drain, Dry. The CR-PRISM strongly supports the WISP program's purpose of protecting our aquatic environments from future infestations. In addition to protecting our aquatic environments, the CR-PRISM supports the programs capacity to help maintain the viability of local and regional economies and recreational activities that benefit New York State residents and tourists. Thank you to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for continued support of the Watercraft Inspection Steward Program.



Thank you to the 2023 Watercraft Inspection Stewards!

# Appendix A: Launch Coverage

In 2023, some steward coverage varied based on boater traffic volume at each location. The recruitment and retention of college students can be problematic with return to school dates or individuals entering into careers. Launch coverage from season to season can be difficult for this reason as the work is attractive to this type of individual.

Table 4 below provides weekly steward coverage information, dates of coverage, days of coverage, and total number of watercraft inspections completed for each launch location. Stewards at Round Lake completed the most inspections at 2,940, requiring coverage from two stewards to ensure as many watercrafts were inspected as possible. Cossayuna Lake received two steward coverage on high volume launch days, completing 2,107 inspections and Moreau Lake State Park completed 1,153 inspections.

**Table 4: Covered Launch Locations, 2023** 

Launch Locations	County	Dates of Coverage	Days Covered	Weekly Coverage	Watercraft Inspected	% of Program Total Watercraft Inspections
Alcathy's/Lock 6	Saratoga	5/25 -8/21	Thurs & Mon	2 days/week	328	3%
Cossayuna Lake	Washington	5/25-8/21	Thurs-Mon	5 days/week	2,107	21%
Dutchman's Landing	Greene	5/25-8/21	Fri-Sun	3 days/week	704	7%
Freeman's Bridge	Schenectady	6/18-8/21	Thurs & Mon	2 days/week	371	4%
Germantown	Columbia	5/25-8/21	Thurs & Mon	2 days/week	118	1%
Henry Hudson Park	Albany	5/25-9/3	Fri-Sun	3 days/week	223	2%
Hudson River Public Boat Launch	Columbia	5/25-8/31	Thurs & Mon	2 days/week	70	1%
Kiwanis/Rotterdam Park	Schenectady	5/25-7/26	Thurs-Mon	5 days/week	299	3%
Moreau Lake State Park	Saratoga	5/25-8/14	Fri-Sun	3 days/week	1,153	11%
Round Lake	Saratoga	5/25-9/4	Thurs-Mon	5 days/week	2,940	29%
Schoharie Crossing	Montgomery	7/6-9/4	Thurs-Mon	5 days/week	483	5%
Waterford Point/Battery Park	Saratoga	5/25-9/3	Thurs-Mon	5 days/week	1,292	13%
					10,088	100%

# Appendix B: Watercraft Types

As noted in Table 5, during the 2023 boating season, stewards observed all watercraft type except barges. Kayaks were the most commonly observed watercraft with a total of 4,867 recorded. Motorboats were the second most common watercraft type with a total of 3,684 recorded. Round Lake observed the highest number of kayaks, while Cossayuna Lake observed the highest number of motorboats. In total, across all launch locations, 10,240 watercrafts were observed along the Hudson River, Mohawk River, and local waterbodies.

Table 5: Comprehensive Data Summary of Watercraft Types at Each Launch Location, 2023

Laurah Lagatian		Watercraft Type						Total			
Launch Location	Kayak	Canoe	Dock	Motorboat	PWC	Rowboat	Sailboat	SUP	Windsurfer	Barge	Watercraft
Alcathy's/Lock 6	11	0	0	270	54	0	1	0	0	0	336
Cossayuna Lake	574	46	1	1289	93	55	6	63	0	0	2127
Dutchman's Landing	132	6	0	454	113	2	6	1	0	0	714
Freeman's Bridge	80	4	0	251	37	0	0	0	0	0	372
Germantown	8	1	0	64	29	12	0	4	0	0	118
Henry Hudson Park	23	5	1	178	23	2	2	0	0	0	234
Hudson River Public Boat Launch	5	23	0	44	8	2	1	0	0	0	83
Kiwanis/Rotterdam Park	135	50	0	119	26	1	0	5	0	0	336
Moreau Lake State Park	813	91	0	1	0	47	1	218	0	0	1171
Round Lake	1730	116	1	701	4	54	16	321	1	0	2944
Schoharie Crossing	203	18	0	240	34	9	1	6	0	0	511
Waterford Point/Battery Park	1153	45	2	73	3	2	0	16	0	0	1294
<b>Grand Total</b>	4867	405	5	3684	424	186	34	634	1	0	10240
% Watercraft Observed	48%	4%	0%	36%	4%	2%	0%	6%	0%	0%	

<sup>\*</sup>PWC = personal watercraft (jet ski); SUP = stand-up paddleboard.



## Appendix C: Aquatic Invasive Species Intercepts Launching and Retrieving Watercraft

Table 6 provides the total AIS observed on watercraft prior to launching at each location. Stewards inspected 4,612 launching watercrafts. Stewards detect plant and animal matter through visual inspection of the outside of the watercraft, and ask boaters to assist them to encourage Clean, Drain, Dry practices. Dutchman's Landing recorded the greatest number of AIS observed on launching watercraft (26), followed by Waterford Point (21), and Round Lake (15). AIS intercepted during a launching watercraft inspection could indicate a boater is new to Clean, Drain, Dry messaging. The data below aids in understanding where increased public awareness is needed and which waterbodies are at highest risk of new AIS introductions. A total of 100 AIS were observed on launching watercraft in the 2023 WISP season.

**Table 6: Launching Watercraft: Aquatic Invasive Species Interceptions** 

Launch Location	Zebra Mussel	EWM	Brittle Naiad	CLP	Water Chestnut	Total Invasives Detected
Alcathy's/Lock 6	0	0	0	2	4	6
Cossayuna Lake	2	2	0	3	0	7
Dutchman's Landing	10	3	0	1	12	26
Freemans Bridge	0	0	0	0	0	0
Germantown	0	3	1	0	7	11
Henry Hudson Park	0	2	0	0	4	6
Hudson River Public Boat Launch	0	0	0	0	3	3
Kiwanis/Rotterdam Park	2	0	0	0	1	3
Moreau Lake State Park	0	0	0	0	0	0
Round Lake	1	9	0	5	0	15
Schoharie Crossing	1	1	0	0	0	2
Waterford Point/Battery Park	0	7	7	3	4	21
Totals	16	27	8	14	35	100



Table 7 provides total AIS observed on watercraft upon retrieval at each launch location. Stewards inspected 3,068 retrieving watercrafts. A higher number of AIS found on retrieving vs. launching watercraft indicated boaters are taking spread prevention measures prior to arriving at a new launch location. Round Lake intercepted the highest number of species during retrieval (445); the largest contributor to Round Lake's intercepts was EWM. This can be attributed to ideal environmental conditions for increased EWM growth. Cossayuna Lake intercepted the second largest number of AIS (123), followed by Waterford Point (59), and Lock 6 (30).

**Table 7: Retrieving Watercraft: Aquatic Invasive Species Interceptions** 

Launch Location	Zebra Mussel	EWM	Brittle Naiad	CLP	Water Chestnut	Total Invasives Detected
Alcathy's/Lock 6	0	0	0	0	30	30
Cossayuna Lake	54	49	0	20	0	123
Dutchman's Landing	1	14	2	1	22	40
Freemans Bridge	1	0	0	1	1	3
Germantown	0	0	0	0	13	13
Henry Hudson Park	0	0	0	0	2	2
Hudson River Public Boat Launch	0	0	0	0	3	3
Kiwanis/Rotterdam Park	0	1	4	0	1	6
Moreau Lake State Park	0	4	0	0	0	4
Round Lake	0	304	1	140	0	445
Schoharie Crossing	2	0	0	0	0	2
Waterford Point/Battery Park	2	13	27	4	13	59
Totals	60	385	34	166	85	730

## Appendix D: CR-PRISM High Priority Invasive Species List

#### Capital Region PRISM 2023 Aquatic High Priority Invasive Species List

For more information including resources for identification, visit <a href="https://www.capitalregionprism.org">www.capitalregionprism.org</a>
To report an invasive species, visit <a href="https://www.nyimapinvasives.org">www.nyimapinvasives.org</a>

**Purpose:** The Capital Region Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (CR-PRISM) created this list to identify the highest priority invasive species for monitoring, detection and response efforts within the Capital Region PRISM boundaries. This list fulfills Objective 2.4: *Anticipate new introductions and reassess current species of concern through event horizon scanning* within "Goal 2: Prevent" in the <u>CR-PRISM 2023-2027 Five-Year Strategic Plan.</u> All species that comprise this list are high or very high threat and many are prohibited within the state of New York by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. This list will be shared with the Partnership to incorporate into their education and outreach, monitoring, detection, and response efforts.

These species were selected by the CR-PRISM staff through the revision of the CR-PRISM Tier List, ecological threat rankings and species regulatory status. In addition, event horizon scanning techniques were used including reviewing tier rankings on neighboring PRISM tier lists, the <a href="New York Natural Heritage Program Statewide Tier List">New York Natural Heritage Program Statewide Tier List</a>, and observing proximity of species to the CR-PRISM region for each species.

Tier 2 High Priority Invasive Species - species with few known populations in the Capital Region PRISM

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growth Type	Ecological Threat	Socio-economic Threat	Part 575 Regulatory Status
Brazilian elodea	Egeria densa	Submerged	Н	Insignificant Negative	Prohibited
Chinese mitten crab	Eriocheir sinensis	Animal	М	Insignificant Negative	Prohibited
European frogbit	Hydrocharis morsus- ranae	Floating	VH	Insignificant Negative	Prohibited
Sea Lamprey	Petromyzon marinus	Animal	М	Significant Negative	Prohibited
Spiny waterflea	Bythotrephes Iongimanus	Animal	VH	High Negative	Prohibited
Starry stonewort	Nitellopsis obtusa	Submerged	VH	High Negative	х
Variable watermilfoil	Myriophyllum heterophyllum	Submerged	VH	Equal Outcome	Prohibited

Tier 1 High Priority Invasive Species - species not yet detected in the Capital Region PRISM

Common Name	Scientific Name	Growth Form	Ecological Threat	Socio-economic Threat	Part 575 Regulatory Status
Fanwort	Cabomba caroliniana	Submerged	VH	Insignificant Negative	Prohibited
Fishhook waterflea	Cercopagis pengoi	Animal	VH	Significant Negative	Prohibited
Freshwater Jellyfish	Craspedacusta sowerbyi	Animal	Moderate	Equal Outcome	х
Parrot feather watermilfoil	Myriophyllum aquaticum	Emergent	Н	Not Assessed	Prohibited
Hydrilla	Hydrilla verticillata	Submerged	VH	Insignificant Negative	Prohibited
Northern snakehead	Channa argus	Animal	Н	Significant Negative	Prohibited
Waterwheel plant	Aldrovanda vesiculosa	Submerged	Unknown	Insignificant Positive	х