



# Watercraft Inspection

## Preparing for and Conducting Training



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### New Steward Orientation Planning Checklist:

- Determine Orientation Date/s & Location/s
- Agenda & Scheduling
  - Standard Training Components
- Guest Speakers
- Determining Materials & Supplies needed
- Organizing Materials & Supplies
- Orientation Day



NYSG provided templates for program use



From: NYS Parks Blog

### Standard Training Components Include:

- Organizational Orientation
- Introduced to the region (including natural resources, partners/local contacts, relationship with law enforcement, and issues of concern)
- AIS identification and data collection protocol
- Boater engagement and interpretation techniques, and
- Launch site visits

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## NYS WISP Handbook: Section 6

### Watercraft Inspection Steward Training & Field Guide

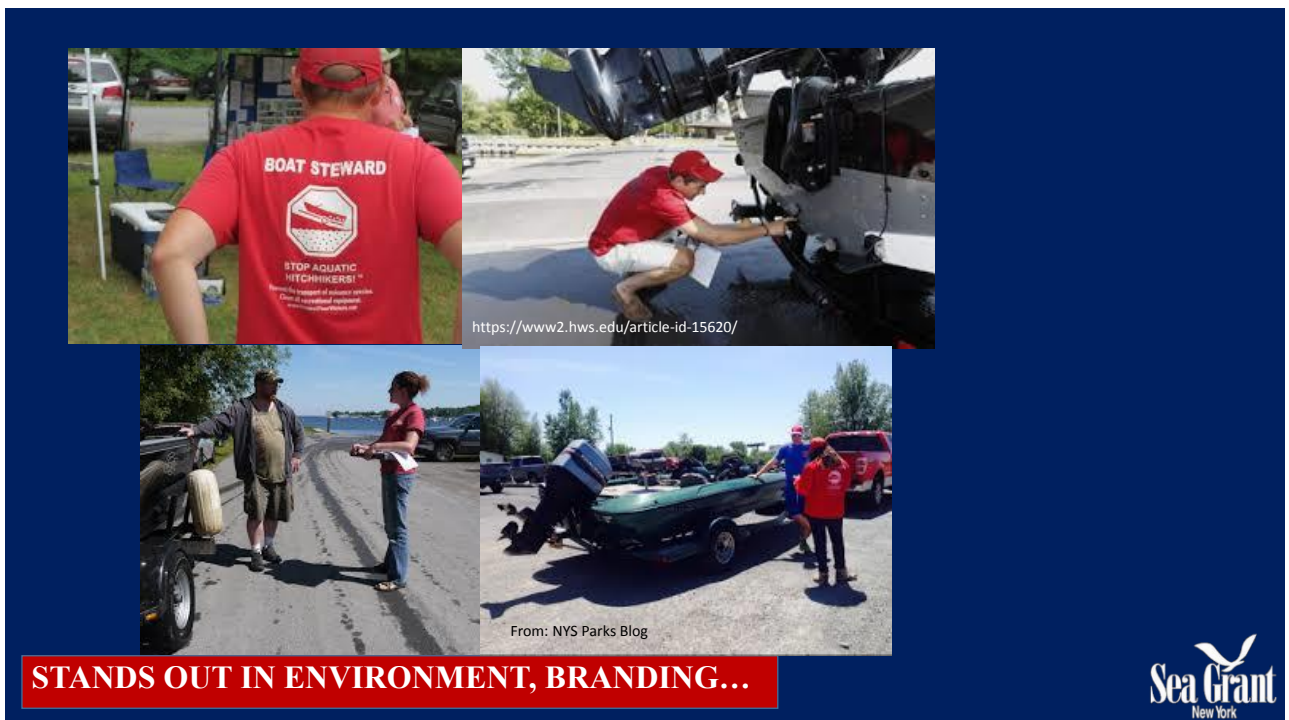
- Orientation: Prepare stewards to engage the public
- 4 key elements to emphasize throughout orientation
  - Appearance (STANDARDIZATION IN NYS)
  - Safety
  - Interaction with the Public
  - Documentation (& Reporting AIS)



## APPEARANCE:

- Stewards should be identifiable and wearing program-approved dress while on duty
- Stewards should be aware of all uniform requirements
- Uniform help the public visually identify you as an official representative of the watercraft inspection program
- Red Uniform: consistent with SAH branding is bright and stands out from the surroundings.







# SAFETY INSTRUCTIONS

Steward & Public  
Visible and Standard Setup



Boat launches are active areas - remind stewards be alert of moving vehicles and trailers!

Ask boaters to **turn off engines** during inspections

**Do NOT get into a boat or vehicle** during an inspection - ask the owner to help

Steward says “all clear!” when an inspection is complete and is safely out of the way

**Keep cell phones/tablets charged** and emergency contact list close by

Be cautious during severe weather – instruct to take shelter in car or at park home base office



## INTERACTION WITH THE PUBLIC

- Communicating effectively and efficiently increases the opportunity to actively engage the public in controlling the spread of AIS and protecting unfested waters.
- *Stewards* are representatives of your organization



### Encourage Stewards to Communicate Professionally

- Maintain a professional but pleasant manner
- Be polite and respectful to all boaters and
- Be respectful if a boater has misinformation or a different point of view.
- Be punctual for duty



### Ways to incorporate throughout training:

- Show how-to videos of watercraft inspections
- Role-playing exercises (classroom or outdoors)
- Program Do's and Don'ts
- Provide stewards with FAQ's
- Use [NYSWISPHB](#) as example



# Expectations of Stewards

Develop responsibilities as a watercraft inspection steward

## While conducting inspections:

- Engaging boaters and demonstrating inspections
- Informing boaters of the importance of inspections
- Informing boaters on proper removal and disposal
- Collecting inspection data from launch users
- Delivering AIS spread prevention messages during inspection
- Distributing AIS educational materials
- Responding to boaters' AIS-related questions



Emphasize the Clean~Drain~Dry educational message adopted by existing watercraft inspection programs



# Engaging the Public Approach & Exit

- Establish Credibility & Introduction:
- Org. and Program
- 100% Voluntary
- Assistance in Inspection
- Inspection Checkpoint List
- AIS Conversation



- Remind stewards to maintain composure:
  - Have confidence
  - Speak clearly
  - Use protocol as a plan
  - Prepare stewards to answer questions

What else does your program expect?



## Framing the Message to Inform Boaters

Each time stewards engage a boater in conversation about AIS, should communicate the Clean – Drain – Dry message, why it is important to limit the spread of AIS, and the benefits to boaters of practicing watercraft inspections.

Boaters usually want to protect the resources they love.



## Framing the Message to Inform Boaters



When provided with the appropriate educational messages, boaters will quickly understand that their actions, or inaction can spread AIS and threaten their ability to boat, fish or otherwise enjoy the water resource.

CLEAN~DRAIN~DRY



# Watercraft Inspection Messaging:

Existing Watercraft Inspection programs across NYS have adopted the national *Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!*<sup>TM</sup> Campaign and the **CLEAN ~ DRAIN ~ DRY** messaging.



## DOCUMENTATION: Data Collection & Reporting

- Data collection and reporting are crucial tasks.
- The information gained from data surveys, reports, and analyses is useful to many other organizations.
- Create reporting protocol to provide to stewards during training/initial training. This should include deadline expectations for data entry, reviewing your data, and correcting errors.
- Instruct stewards to write legibly (on paper) or to properly & carefully complete all survey questions using devices.
- The information collected also supports requests for stewards program funding in the future.



Table 5. Organism transport rates and AIS spread prevention steps taken by type of watercraft.

Type of Watercraft	# boat groups transporting any organism	% of 1905 boat groups transporting any organism	Total # groups inspected	% of groups transporting any organism	% of groups taking AIS spread prevention steps
Barge-construction	2	0.1%	12	0.0%	50%
Canoe	81	4.3%	1234	0.4%	56%
Dock	2	0.1%	13	0.0%	31%
Kayak	39	2.0%	727	0.2%	56%
Motorboat	1673	87.8%	19329	7.4%	71%
Personal Watercraft	74	3.9%	1014	0.3%	59%
Rowboat	23	1.2%	179	0.1%	55%
Sailboat	10	0.5%	155	0.0%	62%
Stand-up paddleboard	1	0.1%	40	0.0%	32%
Total of boat groups transporting any organism	1,905		22,703	8.4%	66%

Table 2. Comprehensive data summary, 2014. Total # of visitors and # of organisms removed from watercraft entering and leaving 4000 Boat Launch sites.

Waterbody	total # visitors	total # organisms found	total organisms found	# boats	# of organisms removed	removal rate
Adirondack Park	48234	48	323	400	244	61%
Albany Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0%
Albany Lake	3270	30	17	47	36	77%
Albany Lake	101	0	0	0	0	0%
Albany Lake	43	0	0	0	0	0%
Albany Lake	245	0	0	42	23	55%
Albany Lake	61	0	0	0	0	0%
Albany Lake	4190	24	7	31	28	90%
Albany Lake	7938	93	30	123	102	83%
Albany Lake	71	0	0	0	0	0%
Albany Lake	2284	49	100	207	141	68%
Albany Lake	4899	39	30	48	13	27%
Albany Lake	61	0	0	0	0	0%
Albany Lake	4839	4	6	10	10	100%
Albany Lake	287	2	2	4	4	100%
Albany Lake	785	93	114	205	140	69%
Albany Lake	1218	20	38	108	117	108%
Albany Lake	2089	24	63	85	75	88%
Albany Lake	2050	473	618	1005	778	77%
Albany Lake	4700	10	10	100	89	89%
Albany Lake	836	5	5	20	24	120%
Albany Lake	3617	10	10	48	44	92%
Albany Lake	3906	11	18	110	102	93%
Albany Lake	2403	30	24	40	35	88%
Albany Lake	1303	39	34	73	57	78%
Albany Lake	198	1	1	7	7	100%
Albany Lake	60610	1221	1742	2873	2044	71%



Next Steps: Once you have completed [Section 5 Step #7b-c-d: Develop Data Collection Protocol, Develop Training on Proper Identification of Aquatic Organisms, Develop and Define AIS Specimen Collection Protocol](#)

## Two Critical parts of inspection training:

### Physically Inspecting Boats

- Train for 3:30:3 minute rule (some can take longer)
- Stewards should NOT board watercraft, operator will assist by boarding the boat and inspecting
- Steward asks the operator to drain water,
- Remove and properly dispose of the materials
- Ask operator to move motors to vertical position
- Stewards refer to the inspection Checkpoint List ([Section 6:15](#)).



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Next Steps: Once you have completed [Section 5 Step #7b-c-d: Develop Data Collection Protocol, Develop Training on Proper Identification of Aquatic Organisms, Develop and Define AIS Specimen Collection Protocol](#)

## Two Critical parts of inspection training:

### What to Do When Observing Water and Hitchhiking Organisms/Debris

- If in the course of an inspection stewards encounter water and non-AIS debris, provide protocol to dispose of
- Provide stewards with AIS identification and specimen collection and instruct steward to refer the boater to Clean~Drain~Dry details
- Develop “bag and tag” specimen collection approach for program
  - Details in Handbook
  - Date; time; collector’s name and contact information, name of waterbody, name of launch site or where
- Develop method to collect specimen from steward
- If applicable; steward can update data records and iMapInvasives.org

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## New York Sea Grant's Role in WCI

- [New York State Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Handbook](#)
- Training assistance for Watercraft Inspection Steward Programs
- [Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Leaders Workshops](#)
- [Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Leaders Webinar Series](#)
- Tool/Resource development



NYSG provided templates for program use



## Watercraft Inspection: Introduction & Training



\*TEMPLATE WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE PRIOR TO 2017 TRAINING SEASON



## Presentation Outline

- What is Watercraft Inspection
- Value of Watercraft Inspection
- Goals of Watercraft Inspection
- Framing the Message to Boaters
- Watercraft Inspection Messaging

**CLEAN~DRAIN~DRY**



## What is Watercraft Inspection?



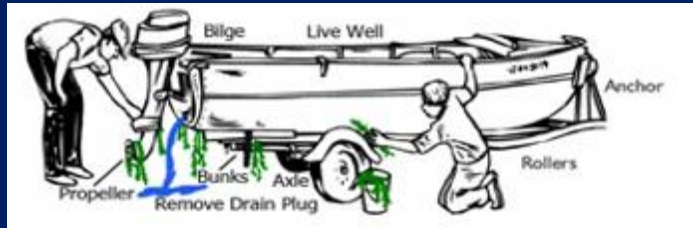
Watercraft inspection consists of visually inspecting all areas of boating and recreational equipment (i.e., boat, trailer, motor, livewell, anchor, swim fins, scuba gear, etc.) that come in contact with or hold water; removing all visible plants, animals, and mud; and draining water from all compartments and containers.

These practices reduce the risk of movement of all organisms from one body of water to another.



# Clean - Drain - Dry

## Legislation and Regulations



\* TEMPLATE WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE PRIOR TO 2017 TRAINING SEASON



## Presentation Outline:

- History of Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations
- Regulatory Efforts
- Permits
- Exemptions
- Standardizing Programs & Importance
- Stewards Role
- Frequently Asked Questions



**PROTECT YOUR WATERS!**  
**Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species**  
*Invasive Plants and Animals Can Impact Boating, Fishing, Swimming and the Environment*

**REMOVE** any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.



**ELIMINATE** water from equipment before transporting.

**CLEAN & DRY** anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, waders, equipment, dogs, etc.).

**NEVER** release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

For further information scan this QR code with a smartphone, or visit:  
[www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html)

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
 825 BROADWAY, ALBANY, NY 12233-4753  
[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

## Regulatory Efforts

### Amendment to Article 3 of the Navigation Law

- “AIS spread prevention signs at all public boat launches”

### 6 NYCRR Part 59.4 (NYSDEC)

### & 9 NYCRR Part 377.1 (NYSOPRHP)

- “AIS spread prevention regulations for boat launching/retrieving at DEC and Parks-owned sites”



# Invasive Species: Fighting the Frontlines to Prevent the Spread



\*TEMPLATE WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE PRIOR TO 2017 TRAINING SEASON





# Presentation Outline

- What are Aquatic Invasive Species
- Characteristics and Concerns
- Why should the public care?
- Strategies for management
- Species Examples
- Specimen Collection Protocol
- Additional Resources



## Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

### Native Range/ Introduction:

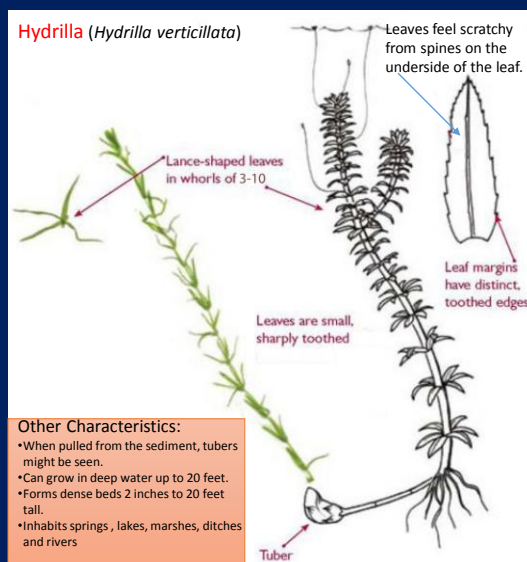
Indian subcontinent, Korea/Imported

### Ecological Threat:

Aggressively spreads and dominates native, beneficial, aquatic plants. Renders surface waters unusable for recreation and fishing. Winter dieback may reduce dissolved oxygen levels.

### Best Control:

Mechanical harvesting and herbicide release or injection of herbicide below the surface of the water are common control methods for Hydrilla.



## Other items to keep in mind:

### Summary: Key Points

- Stewards actions reflect on themselves, your program, the supervising organization and program partners, and all watercraft inspection programs, and impacts how well your message is received.
- Stewards should know the proper watercraft inspection protocol from approach to exit.
- Reporting: Data analyses are only as good as data collected.
- Be sure stewards know, personal and public safety is a priority at inspection sites.
- Remind stewards to maintain professional conduct and composure at all times.
- Stress the boater education message of **Clean~Drain~Dry**.

### Launch Site Visits

- Schedule time in your training to bring stewards to the launch they will be stationed at
- Show stewards where they should be set up and how to set up stations
- If possible, use this time to demonstrate watercraft inspection

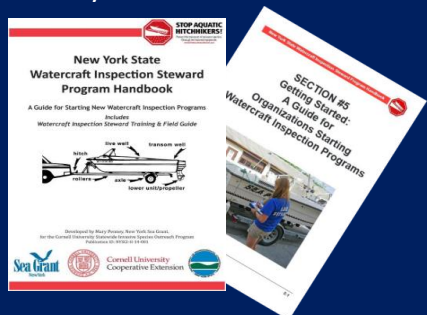
### During training, encourage stewards to:

- Ask questions regarding protocol
- Read documents thoroughly
- Interact with and “get-to-know” each other
- Incorporate breaks/activities to keep engaged



## Summary:

- Use [handbook as a guide](#)
- Standardize when possible
- Call on partners for guidance and topical expertise as needed
- Stay in touch with NYSG



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## Questions?

