

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Chateaugay Lake

2018 Final Report

Prepared By:

INVASIVE SOLUTIONS



DIVE COMPANY, LLC

Table of Contents

Preface	2
Introduction	2
Methodology.....	2
Harvest Data	3
Overview and Site Summaries	4
Indian Point.....	4
Sandbar area	5
Boat Launch.....	6
Lower Lake north of Narrows-	7
Conclusion.....	8

Preface

First off, everyone at Invasive Solutions Dive Company would like to thank everyone involved with the aquatic invasive species management efforts for their time, energy, and contributions for the 2018 season. We consider this year to be a success in the continued effort in the fight and management of aquatic invasive species throughout the lake. We knew this would be a different experience for everyone involved working with a new company and we feel the season went off without a hitch. Looking forward, we are excited to continue with the management efforts and success on Chateaugay Lake for years to come.

Introduction

The 2018 season consisted of five weeks to both continue the management efforts on Upper Chateaugay Lake and the narrows, as well as harvest a new area on Lower Chateaugay Lake which had been previously surveyed and identified. Our first two weeks were in early June where we harvested high trafficked areas to include around the boat launch and the Sandbar, a popular boat recreation area, south of the launch. Our second and third weeks were the first two weeks in July where we began working a previously identified patch on Lower Chateaugay in an effort to start reducing the AIS in the area, harvesting in a manor which would open an area to help prevent the further spread of the aquatic invasive species by boaters. Finally, we worked with both the Chateaugay Lake Foundation and the Town of Dannemora to include an additional harvest week in August where we continued the efforts on Upper Chateaugay near Indian Point.

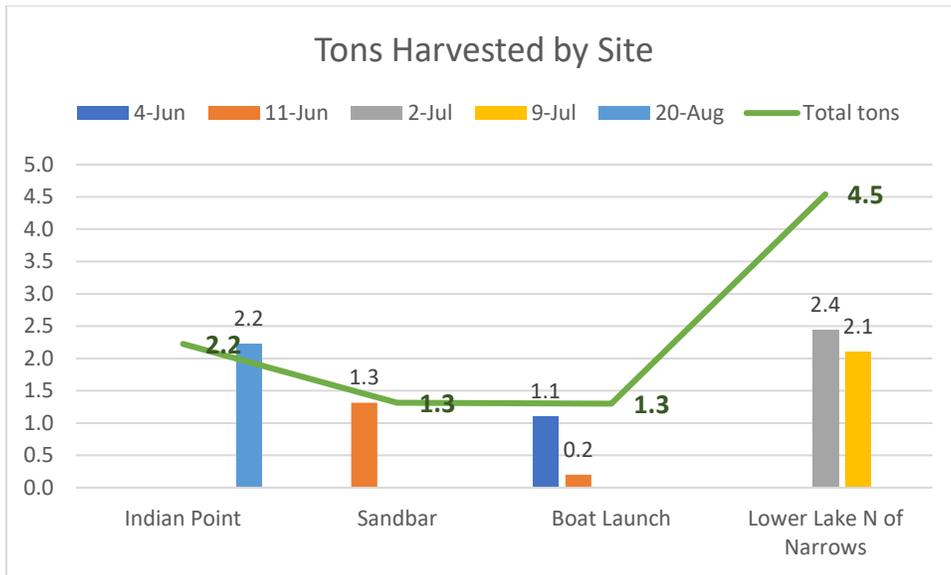
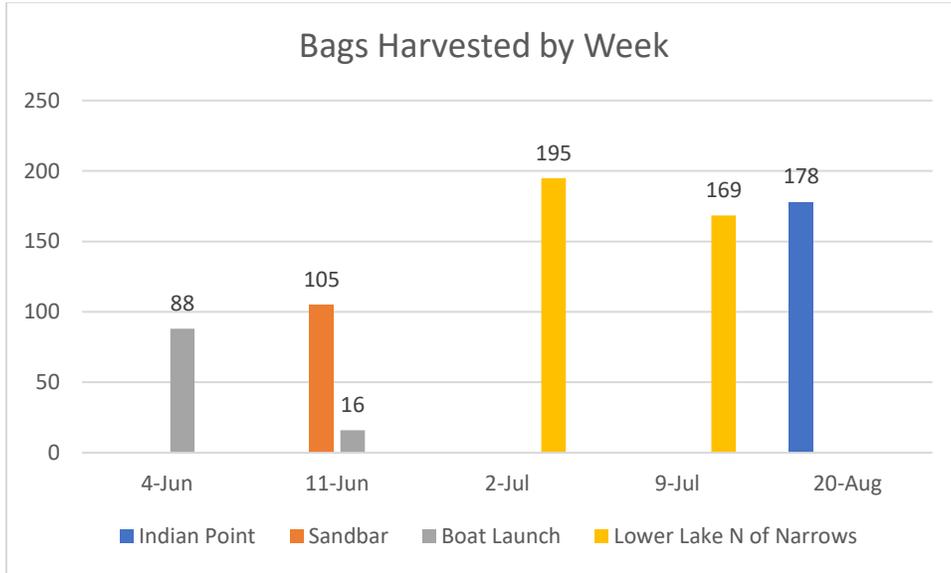
Methodology

The successful harvesting of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is an ever-evolving world which requires knowledge in many areas to include the bodies of water and their specific tendencies, especially in relation to their natural flow, seasonal changes, historical AIS data and patterns, and knowledge of AIS and their life cycles. Considering the many variables, we develop a foundation for a management plan to lay the groundwork for the harvest season, while still allowing for minor changes in harvesting methods to ensure the best harvesting practices are always being employed.

For the management of Chateaugay Lake we work with the Chateaugay Lake Foundation and the Lake Manager to prioritize the needs of the lake and to work within budgetary and time constraints. We then review historical site data to ensure we have the most efficient harvest plan for each site to be worked.

Each week our Crew collects data, to include plant locations via GPS waypoints, general plant size and life cycle, bag count, and general data specific to the plant location which is used to create weekly reports of the work completed.

Harvest Data



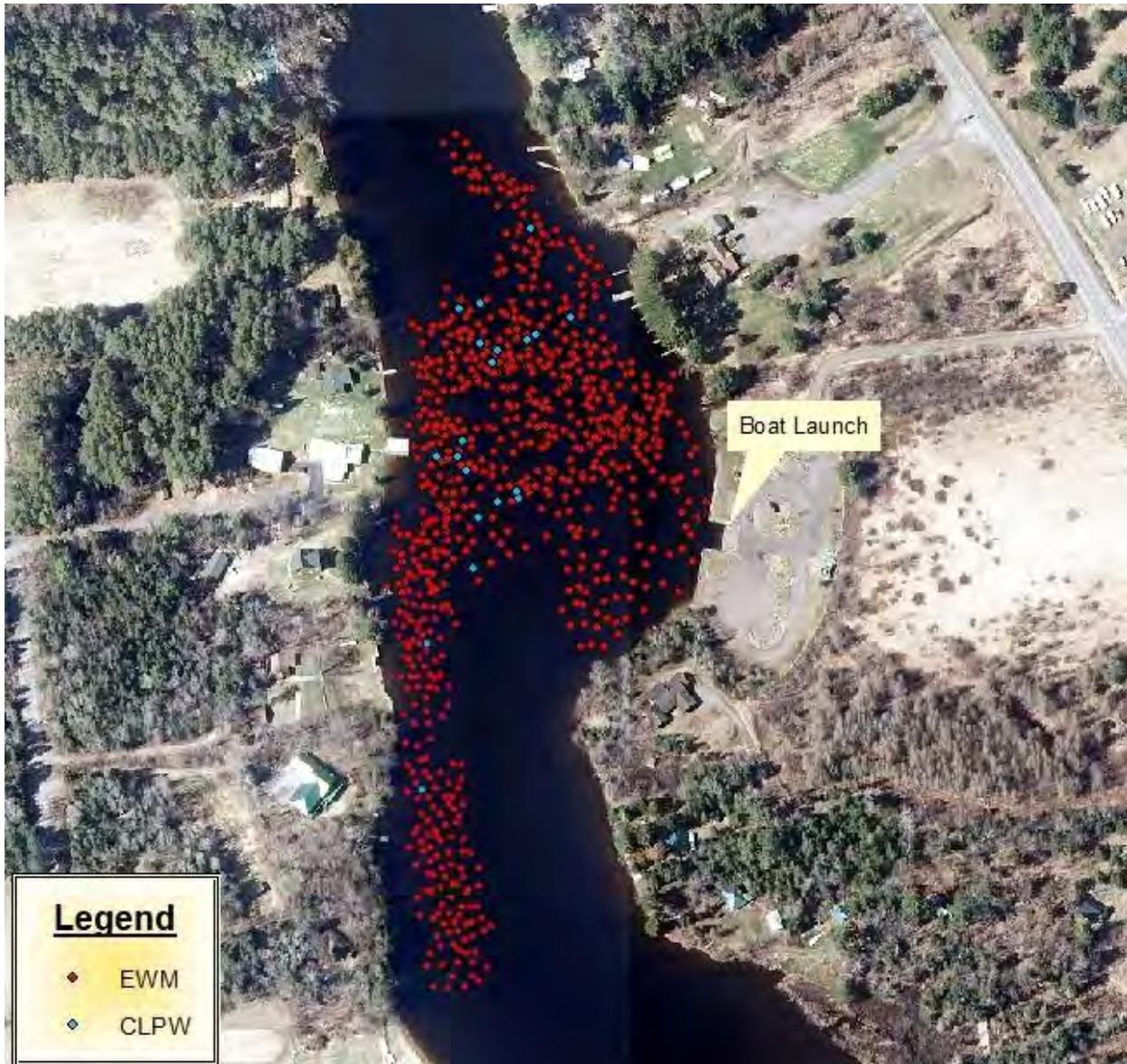
Overview and Site Summaries



Indian Point- There was a total of 4450 lbs. (2.2 tons) of EWM harvested this season. This area has been harvested in past years which can be readily identified by divers due to the smaller size of the plants in the area. However, this year divers harvested all the way to the shoreline, which had not been done consistently in the past, which consisted of much larger, bushier multi-stems than the areas being harvested further from the shore. The intentions of this is to harvest all EWM within the area to help prevent the reseeding of the area so we can continue to make progress and move further south along the shoreline.



Sandbar area- There was a total of 2625 lbs. (1.3 tons) of EWM harvested from this area this season. This area contains large amounts of EWM throughout much of the area. This area is harvested in parts which see the highest amount of boat traffic as well as sections which contain the densest EWM. Crews first focus on boating lanes and popular beaching areas to help prevent boats from causing excessive fragmentation and/or transporting EWM to other parts of the lake, then work through dense areas to reduce the EWM population.



Boat Launch- There was a total of 2600 lbs. (1.3 tons) of AIS harvested from this area this season. Crews continue to work this entire area, which have been consistently worked in the past, to continue progress towards the reduction of AIS in the area. This area contains both EWM and Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLPW), though CLPW is in small sporadic clusters which does not account for much harvested weight. Because this area sees very high boat traffic due to the boat launch, it is worked first thing in the season to reduce the AIS before peak growing season to help prevent the fragmentation and spread of AIS to other parts of the lake.



Lower Lake north of Narrows- There was a total of 9081 lbs. (4.5 tons) of EWM harvested from this area this season. Lower Chateaugay had been previously surveyed which identified AIS along much of its shoreline, with this southern section (just north of the narrows) containing the highest density of AIS. This section was harvested to greatly reduce the EWM density in the area and clear a path for boaters to travel from the lake to the narrows, in an attempt to reduce fragmentation and the further spread of AIS due to the boat traffic.

Conclusion

Areas which see harvests yearly show signs of decreased AIS with plants that are smaller and less dense than surrounding areas without harvest. With the selection of specific harvest areas, we can reduce the risk of boaters and lake goers from fragmenting and further spreading AIS to other parts of the lake. We will continue to work with the Foundation to help identify and prioritize their goals to ensure we are providing the most meaningful and efficient harvests on the lake. As we continue to harvest many of these same areas, we should continue to see the reduction of AIS to improve the quality of the lake and recreation.



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