

Summer 2017 Milfoil Control Plans

Hand-Harvesting

Starting on Monday, May 29th, divers from Aquatic Invasive Management (AIM) will be on Chateaugay Lake for two weeks of hand harvesting of Eurasian milfoil. There will be one crew the first week, joined by a second crew the week of June 5th.

A major focus will be to maintain milfoil control around the DEC boat launch and the Sandbar, where there is heavy boating activity. Dense beds of milfoil form in these areas. If the boating lanes are kept clear, there is less chance that the milfoil will fragment and spread.

Work will also continue for a second year to control a small dense bed off Indian Point that is crossed by boats as they enter the South Inlet. The inlet to the Lower Lake also remains a high priority for treatment, with funds being reserved in hopes of getting underway next year.

Fundraising efforts continue to build up reserves to the levels needed to expand treatment. Over the past four years, shore owners have contributed \$115,000 through a Dedicated Donations campaign. Some donations are restricted to specific parts of the lake but most are designated for use "wherever needed most." In addition to funding maintenance control, over \$75,000 is now in reserve for future treatment plans.

Survey Results

A survey card was included with the Chateaugay Lake Foundation's fall fundraising letter asking shore owners how milfoil is affecting their shoreline and their views on control.

The mailing went to 564 shore owners and 66 responded (12%), enough to provide some useful feedback. There were 16 respondents from the Lower Lake, 21 from the Narrows, and 29 from the Upper Lake. Most (88%) said they know what milfoil looks like, but some were unsure (9%). Many (59%) said they had seen it growing off their shoreline, while 25% said they had not seen it and 15% were unsure. Of those who saw it off their shoreline, 44% said it had increased over the past three years, 33% said it had decreased, and 23% reported no change.

Most felt that Eurasian milfoil is a problem for water quality and recreation (95%) and that it is important to control (97%). Somewhat fewer (89%) said they know about the work being done to control Eurasian milfoil. Most (76%) felt that control efforts are making a difference, while 5% felt they are not, and 20% are unsure. Comments included suggestions to look into biological controls or herbicides as alternatives to hand-harvesting. These options have been considered, but the costs and likely success for conditions on Chateaugay Lake have weighed against them.

Thank you to everyone who returned a survey and to all those who have supported us this year. Please stop by to say hello at our table at the Farmer's Market and other events this summer.

Mary Johnson, Chateaugay Lake Foundation President
For more info, visit www.chateaugaylakefoundation.org

*See the enclosed postcard for more about
stopping milfoil!*

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