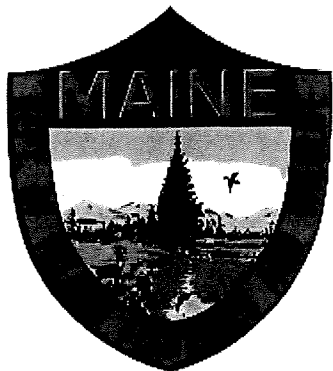


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Status of Invasive Aquatic Plant Spread Prevention as Required in Resolve Chapter 203

Submitted Pursuant to Resolve Chapter 203, 124th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session

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December 2010

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This report is submitted as required by Resolve, Chapter 203 enacted by the 124th Maine Legislature 2nd Regular Session, Resolve, To Prevent the Spread of Invasive Plants and Protect Maine's Lakes and is presented to:

- The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters
- The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resource matters
- The Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species.

The full text of the enacted resolve is in Appendix A.

The Context

In 2001 the Maine Legislature recognized the problem of invasive aquatic plants and directed State agencies to develop methods to reduce the threat these invasive species posed to recreation, aquatic habitat, and the Maine economy. Since then, DEP and DIFW have done substantial work in this area and a diverse network of local volunteers, backed by the participation of groups such as the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, Lakes Environmental Association, and the Maine Congress of Lake Associations, have made great strides in combating this problem. However, even as we understand the issues better, concerns continue about the spread of invasive species.

Infestations of the invasive aquatic plants Eurasian water milfoil in Salmon Lake (2008) and hydrilla in Damariscotta Lake (2009) heightened concern over the risk of spreading invasive aquatic plants to additional lakes in Maine. These two plants are particularly aggressive and were discovered in lake systems with ample available habitat for expanding their growth.

Partly in response to infestations in these relatively large lakes, Representative Jane Eberle submitted LD 1548 to the 124th Maine Legislature's Second Regular Session. As originally written, the bill concentrated on two areas of concern. It would have banned fishing tournaments on, and water extraction from, lakes with documented infestations of invasive aquatic plants to reduce the risk of spreading invasive aquatic plants to additional water bodies.

Several subsequent discussions of a working group of agencies and stakeholders, chaired by Rep. Eberle and detailed in Section 4 of the resolve, resulted in changes to this approach. In light of DIFW's recently increased equipment inspection and reporting requirements for bass tournaments, it was felt that these measures would address a major plant spread risk posed by concentrated fishing events on all lakes, whether infested or not. The fishing tournament ban was removed from the bill. However, the discussions highlighted other facets of plant spread that should be further investigated for potential action.

Also, given that the risk of spread by commercial water extraction is largely unknown, that prohibition was removed from the bill in favor of gaining a better understanding of the risk and evaluating the benefits of education and outreach to extractors.

The bill was amended to a resolve directing DEP and DIFW to increase invasive aquatic plant spread prevention measures by:

- reviewing boat ramps on infested lakes for potential spread and recommending use controls as needed
- reviewing spread risk through water extraction activities and considering outreach needed

- conducting additional educational and outreach activities.

Before it was even signed, DEP and DIFW had begun collaborating on elements in the resolve. This report describes activities related to the resolve that have been completed or started and are ongoing projects. The structure of this report follows that of the resolve.

Sec. 1. Review of lakes within the State infested with aquatic invasive plant species

Per the Resolve, DEP and DIFW are charged to work together to review all lakes individually in the State with known infestations of aquatic invasive plant species to determine:

1. The type, extent and location of each infestation and its proximity to boat access points;
2. The general uses of the body of water;
3. The extent of involvement by local courtesy boat inspectors and lake associations regarding the prevention and control of aquatic invasive plant species; and
4. The use of existing surface water management strategies.

Agencies were directed to use available existing information, i.e., staff was not expected to conduct substantial field work or research in conducting the analysis. Information gaps will be noted. DEP and DIFW staff will also consider whether a surface use restriction should be recommended to agency commissioners for specific sites if the analysis shows unacceptable risk from a particular ramp.

The resolve further directed the agencies to collaborate with lake associations and user groups to identify private boat ramps on lakes infested with aquatic invasive plant species, the idea being to assess the risk of spread from private ramps on infested lakes as well as public ramps.

Information gathered for this review

Invasive plant known to be in each lake

Name, location, and ownership of access point open to public use

Type of access: Carry-in only or Trailer-access site

Intensity of ramp use

The category chosen (Low, Moderate, or High) is the best professional judgment of DEP and DIFW biologists. Information used by the biologists to select the use intensity for a particular ramp included:

- courtesy boat inspection data (# of inspections during season, inspections per hour of inspector coverage)
- number of fishing tournaments/season
- observations of degree of non-tournament fishing pressure and other types of recreational use of the access point.

General extent of invasive plant infestation: Lakewide, Patchy, Isolated (to one area), Sparse

Risk due to proximity of invasive plant infestation to the access point and relative risk associated with ramp location as demonstrated by the percent of inspected boats leaving which carried aquatic plants (invasive or native) on them or associated gear (plant export rate):

Low: No or few invasive plants in part of the lake where ramp is located, or low export rate (0-1.9%).

Moderate: Plants widely distributed in area of low to moderate boating use, or low to moderate plant export rate (2-9.9%).

High: plants near or at the ramp with fragments regularly on ramp, or relatively high export rate (10% or higher).

Note: State average for infested lake plant export rate in 2009 is 6.9 % (1,408 plants found on 20,547 exiting boats). All plant export rates used in this report are from 2009 since 2010 inspection data are still being entered as of December 2010.

Private individual boat ramps: High use, moderate use, low use, none or unknown

Private community ramp use (marinas, sporting camps): High use, moderate use, low use, none or unknown

Local involvement of local organization: The higher the level of effort by local organizations such as lake associations or towns, the lower the risk of spread from that lake

High level: Operating a courtesy boat inspection program ("CBI") for high use times, conducting plant surveys in the lake ("IPP"), and conducting plant control efforts, all at high or moderate levels of activity

Moderate level: One or two prongs of the 3 (CBI, IPP, plant control) well developed

Low level: Capacity for concerted effort on invasive plant issues is not developed at this time.

Summary of the review

DEP and DIFW staff assembled existing information on boat access sites on infested lakes in the table below. Also considered was information from the extensive, locally-driven CBI (Courtesy Boat Inspection) Program which generated more than 57, 552 boat inspections in 2009 and Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program records of IPP (Invasive Plant Patrol) activity by local monitors. The former gives a good indication of how plants are spread via boats, at least in those regions that have significant numbers of inspections. The latter is an effort that allows early detection and management of new infestations before they spread lake-wide, thus reducing the potential for an infestation to spread from that lake.

Information presented here is a combination of available data and best professional judgment of staff. Information for some infested water bodies and some ramps are incomplete.

Item #4 in this section of the resolve directed agencies to determine “the use of existing surface water management strategies.” The one existing strategy that pertains specifically to use of water bodies with confirmed invasive aquatic plant infestations is the ability of DEP and DIFW Commissioners to issue a joint order restricting use on all or a portion of an infested lake or access to an infested water body (see 38 MRSA § 1864 in Appendix B). This section in statute states, among other things, that “The order must be for a specific period of time and may be issued only

when the use of watercraft on that water body threatens to worsen or spread the infestation.” As currently allowed, these restrictions must be for limited periods of time in specific areas to allow plant management activities to be conducted. Restrictions must be limited to the maximum extent feasible and terminated as soon as possible. Surface use is not strictly defined, but in practice these restrictions have been limited to surface uses covered under a Memorandum of Agreement between DIFW and DEP and are essentially aimed at boating access to infested areas or ramp use deemed to generate undue risk.

Since adoption of the surface use restriction provision in statute in 2001, only two joint orders have been issued by the Commissioners: Salmon Lake in Belgrade (limited access to seven acre cove due to Eurasian water milfoil infestation) and Great Meadow Stream in Rome/Belgrade (no motorized boats in this tributary to Great Pond due to variable leaf milfoil infestation). These were of limited duration to allow the DEP and local cooperators to effectively control the infestations which are in limited areas. Other access restrictions at the Rte 27 Messalonskee Lake ramp in Belgrade and Pickerel Pond in Limerick were declared by the owners (Departments of Conservation and Transportation, respectively) and both provided for continued, limited public access. In the case of the Messalonskee Lake, the ramp was closed at all times when an inspector was present. In order to provide a substantial number of hours of access, significant program funds had to be expended for staffing that location until an alternate ramp was constructed. The lower use rates at Pickerel Pond were accommodated by an on-demand opening and closing of the ramp access by cooperative agreement with the Town of Limerick.

In addition to annual competitive grants available to lake associations wanting to conduct boat inspection (CBI) programs, a joint DEP-LEA (Lakes Environmental Association, Bridgton) program manages inspections on 19 high priority ramps on infested lakes. The objective is to reduce the risk of spread from infested lakes *within* Maine by directing funds according to the risk presented by each access site. For example, the Lake Arrowhead/Ledgemere Dam ramp receives more annual funding from the DEP than any other access site given the relatively high risk of plant spread from this site. In 2010 DEP allocated \$8,250 from the dedicated Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species Fund (revenues from sale of the Lake and River Protection Sticker, so-called milfoil sticker) for inspections at Lake Arrowhead/Ledgemere Dam.

After reviewing the available data compiled in the table below, DEP and DIFW staff considered if the risk of spread from a particular water body is great enough to warrant restricting use of, or access to, infested public waters beyond the current restrictions on Salmon Lake and Great Meadow Stream. DEP staff feels that, at a minimum, two sites warrant additional consideration of ways to minimize the risk of transport of invasive aquatic plants.

One is the aforementioned Ledgemere Dam ramp at Lake Arrowhead in Limerick. This site has the highest plant export rate among ramps with inspection programs (66% in 2009). The local group Lake Arrowhead Conservation Council wants to begin discussions with the ramp owner and state agencies regarding the potential for mandatory (in contrast to the current voluntary) inspections of boats entering and leaving Arrowhead.

The other site is the Pleasant Pond access site in Litchfield which has the second highest plant export rate (41% in 2009) and, like Arrowhead, also has variable milfoil growing near the ramp and

throughout the pond. DEP allocated the second highest amount of funding (\$6,930) to this site in 2010 due to the density and extent of infestation.

It should be noted that the current programs only provide inspections at select, high-use times. A substantial number of boats leaving these ramps at other times can introduce plants to other lakes. Data gathered by the Department indicates that reliance on boater self-inspections alone will not substantially reduce plant transmission rates in the absence of inspectors at ramps.

Both Lake Arrowhead and Pleasant Pond have active groups (Lake Arrowhead Conservation Council and Four Towns Watershed Association/Friends of Cobbossee Watershed) working to both prevent new infestations and control existing infestations through removal with diver assisted suction harvesting and deployment of bottom barriers to smother the plants. Both groups participate in the Maine Milfoil Initiative and have among their objectives to remove plants near the access points to reduce the potential for spread to other waters.

While the existing state dedicated funds being spent on inspections at these two sites are significant, requiring inspections by a paid inspector at these popular fishing lakes while maintaining unlimited (or nearly so) access for anglers would easily cost over \$15,000 per ramp annually. Since the groups on these two lakes are working diligently to remove plants near each ramp, state agency staff will review 2010 and 2011 plant export data (2010 data are still being entered as of December 2010) before making any recommendations for use or access restrictions on these water bodies and access sites.

Identification of private boat ramps on lakes infested with aquatic invasive plant species

As described in the resolve, this effort will involve collaboration between state agencies and lake associations. The Congress of Lake Associations will work with DEP, DIFW, and select lake associations over the winter 2010-2011 to plan this inventory work on a subset of the infested lakes during the 2011 season. This collaboration offers opportunities to engage stakeholders in the information gathering process while considerably reducing the need for limited State resources to do these surveys. In conjunction with continued inspection data for 2011, this will allow the best risk assessment and recommendations to be made.

Status of Invasive Aquatic Plant Spread Prevention as Required in Resolve Chapter 203
December 31, 2010

| Lake or river segment | Plant | Public access name, Location | Owner | Type ¹ | Use Intensity | Infestation extent | Infestation Proximity | Export rate ² | Private individual ramps | Private community ramps | Local involvement level | Brief summary |
|-----------------------|-------|---|---|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|
| Arrowhead | VLM | Ledgemere Dam, Limerick | EPICO USA, Inc | TR | Moderate/High | Lakewide, very dense in some areas | High risk | 65.5% | Unknown | Low (most closed; only Bay Cove still open) | High (Lake Arrowhead Conservation Council (LACC)) | Lake is infested throughout, including in the immediate vicinity of this ramp. Valued bass fishery for individuals and tournaments. Export rate is by far the highest of ramps on infested lakes (59% greater than average). LACC interested in discussing with ramp owner and DEP requiring inspections for launching/retrieving. |
| Auburn | VLM | Rte 4, Auburn | Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Commission | TR | High | Sparse | Low risk | 1.7% | None | None | High | VLM infestation is far from the ramp on Rte 4. Very unlikely that VLM will be exported from the ramp. |
| Balch | VLM | Dick's Marina, Newfield | Private person | TR | Low | Sparse in ME, dense patches in NH | Low risk | 0.0% | Unknown | Unknown (besides Dick's Marina) | Moderate | Only 18 exiting boats inspected in 2009; no plants found. Data suggest very low spread potential. |
| Brandy | VLM | No public ramp | N/A | N/A | N/A | Patches around marinas near Rte 302 | N/A | N/A | | Most marinas in area do not support much day use | | |
| Christopher (Bryant) | VLM | Lake Rd, off Rte 26 | Town of Woodstock | TR | Low | Patches mostly in one cove | Low risk | No CBI | Unknown | Unknown | Moderate | Very strong control effort and distance from ramp presents low risk of spread, but recognize that boat inspections don't occur (due to low use) so we have no export rate data. |
| Cobbossee Stream | VLM | At least 3 (?) unimproved impromptu ramps | Likely within road ROW | TR | Moderate | Streamwide | Unknown | No CBI | Unknown | Moderate (Gardiner Sportsmans Club) | M/H | Need to survey for VLM near the unimproved ramps to better assess risk of spread. |

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December 31, 2010

| Lake or river segment | Plant | Public access name, location | Owner | Type ¹ | Use Intensity | Infestation extent | Infestation Proximity | Export rate ² | Private individual ramps | Private community ramps | Local involvement level | Brief summary |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|
| Collins | VLM | No public ramp | N/A | N/A | N/A | Lakewide, dense in some areas | N/A | N/A | Low use | None | Moderate | No public boat access. Strong local IPP and plant control efforts. |
| Cushman | VLM | Unimproved ramp | Town of Lovell? | TR | Low | Sparse (very) | Low risk | No CBI | Low use | None | Moderate | No CBI program but very strong plant survey and control effort; very few plants found each year. |
| Damariscotta | HYD | Rte 113 Bunker Hill Rd | DIFW | TR | High | Isolated to small shallow cove (lagoon) | Low risk | 7.4% | Moderate | Moderate | High | Location of public ramp relative to infestation presents very low risk of spread. Need to conduct outreach to private launching sites. |
| Damariscotta | HYD | Vanna Road | Town of Nobleboro | TR | Moderate | Isolated to small shallow cove (lagoon) | Low risk | CBI in 2010: data being entered | Moderate | Moderate | High | Location of ramp relative to infestation and low use presents very low risk of spread. Need to conduct outreach to private sites. |
| Hogan | VLM | No public ramp | N/A | TR-private | Low | N & S ends of pond | Moderate risk | No CBI | Unknown | Low | Moderate | No public access; access by permission only at two sites. |
| Legion Pond | CLP & Eur. naiad | Town Park off Rte 103 | Town of Kittery | H | Low | Patchy | Moderate risk | No CBI | Low use | None | Low | CLP discovered My 2010. Risk of spread low given hand carry use. |
| Little Sebago | VLM | Off Angler's Rd from Rte 302 | DIFW | TR | High | Large patches in Upper, Lower Bays and smaller coves | Low risk | 0.0% | Unknown: Moderate to high?? | Unknown: moorings out at old campground in 2010 | High | VLM is very dense in parts of the lake but distant from ramp; 0 plants found on 720 exiting boats in 2009. Very strong local CBI, plant control, and IPP effort. |
| Messalonskee Lake | VLM | Rte 27, Belgrade | DOC | H | Moderate | Lakewide in southern end; small to large patches elsewhere | High risk | Formerly high; now no inspections since hand carry | Unknown: moderate to high? | Unknown | Moderate | DOC closed site to trailers given export rate. Now open only for hand carry. |

Status of Invasive Aquatic Plant Spread Prevention as Required in Resolve Chapter 203
December 31, 2010

| Lake or river segment | Plant | Public access name, location | Owner | Type ¹ | Use Intensity | Infestation extent | Infestation Proximity | Export rate ² | Private individual ramps | Private community ramps | Local involvement level | Brief summary |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| Messalonskee Lake | VLM | Old Belgrade Rd, Oakland | Town of Oakland | TR | High | See above | High risk | 0.6% | Same as above | Same as above | Moderate | High risk given proximity of infestation yet export rate well below average. Continue efforts to reduce plant/boat contact. |
| Messalonskee Lake | VLM | Hosta Rd, Sidney | DOC | TR | Moderate/High | See above | Low risk | 0.2% | Same as above | Same as above | Moderate | Surveys by DEP have found no VLM near ramp. |
| Middle Range | VLM | Range Hill Rd (Upper Range), Poland | DIFW | TR | Moderate/High | Sparse in one area of M. Range; no plants found in 2009 | Low risk | No CBI in 2009 | Unknown | Low/Moderate use; owned by restaurant on Rte 26 | Moderate | Risk of spread from ramp likely very low since no plants found in 2009. Local effort is ongoing to survey and control any plants found in shallow area of M Range. |
| Parker | VLM | Casco | Town of Casco Gravel ramp | TR | Low | Sparse in Lily Bk | Low risk | 0% | Unknown | Unknown | High | Risk of spread likely very low given outstanding local effort to remove plants. Adjacent Pleasant Lake removed from infested list in 2010. |
| Pickerel | HYD | Unimproved ramp on Rte 11 | MDOT | TR | Low | Sparse since herbicide treatments began | Low risk | No 2009 CBI data | Moderate to high use | None | Low | Ramp effectively under surface use restriction since DOT permitted DEP to gate ramp unless inspection occurs (started in 2003). |
| Pleasant | VLM | Thorofare Rd, Litchfield | Town of Litchfield | TR | High | Lakewide | High risk | 41% | Unknown | Unknown | Moderate | Strong plant control and CBI program working, adding IPP effort. High export rate and proximity of infestation presents high spread potential from ramp. Requiring inspections at ramp would be expensive on this popular angling lake. |
| Pleasant Hill | EWM | No public or private ramp | | | | | | | | | | |

| Lake or river segment | Plant | Public access name, location | Owner | Type ¹ | Use Intensity | Infestation extent | Infestation Proximity | Export rate ² | Private individual ramps | Private community ramps | Local involvement level | Brief summary |
|-------------------------------|-------|--|---|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Salmon Lake | EWM | Spaulding Pt Rd, N. Belgrade | DIFW | TR | Low/ Moderate | Isolated to cove next to ramp | Moderate risk (active control efforts by DEP) | 0.5% | Low risk: any private site will be outside of known infested area | Moderate use but evidently high risk; 2 invasives found before ENTERING Salmon in 2009 | High | Given control work, temporary S.U.R, and low export rate, risk of spreading EWM from Salmon DIFW ramp currently low. |
| Sebago Lake | VLM | Raymond | DIFW | TR | High | Lakewide in coves and inlets | Low risk | 2.3% | High | High including Sebago Cove private ramp and multiple marinas | High in localized areas (e.g., Raymond, Standish boat inspections by PWD, LEA work in Songo) | State Park ramp presents greatest risk given plant proximity but export rate below state average. Considerable CBI coverage at all ramps (full time at Standish??). No immediate need to advocate restricted access. |
| Sebago Lake | VLM | Standish | PWD | TR | High | | Low risk | 0.25% | High | See above | See above | See above |
| Sebago Lake/Songo River | VLM | State Park | DOC | TR | High | | High risk | 2.8% | High | See above | See above | See above |
| Shagg Pond | VLM | Unimproved ramp on Shagg Pd Rd | Unknown | TR | Low | Large patches in certain areas of pd | Moderate/ High risk | No CBI | Low | None | Moderate | Likely low export rate if inspections occurred. Strong plant patrol and removal program. |
| Skelton Flowage in Saco River | VLM | Skelton Head Pond (TR) and carry-in at Pleasant Pt | Next Era Energy | TR, H | Moderate/ High at TR site | may be limited to Pleasant Point area | Low (~1 mile away) | No CBI | None | None | Low | DEP staff hasn't done assessment of extent of variable milfoil growth in this pond; no CBI program. |
| Spaulding | VLM | No public ramp | | | | | | | | Low | | Private ramp located off Indian Lake Drive. Variable milfoil dense near ramp. |
| The Basin | VLM | Carry-in, non motorized only | Lk Auburn Watershed Protection Commission | H | Low | Patchy throughout the Basin | Moderate | No CBI | None | None | High (Lk Auburn Watershed Protection Commission) | Low risk of spread given control efforts by AWD and use of site. Popular access for wildlife photography. |

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December 31, 2010

| Lake or river segment | Plant | Public access name, location | Owner | Type ¹ | Use Intensity | Infestation extent | Infestation Proximity | Export rate ² | Private individual ramps | Private community ramps | Local involvement level | Brief summary |
|---------------------------|-------|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Thompson | VLM | Marina | Private (Poland/Casco town line) | TR | Moderate | Patchy, dense in some coves and Heath | Moderate | 0.0% | Moderate | Unknown | High | Well-established IPP, CBI and plant control effort. Risk of spread does not warrant restricted access at this time. |
| Thompson | VLM | Landing/Rte 121 | Town of Oxford | TR | Moderate | See above | Low | 1.3% | See above | See above | See above | See above |
| Thompson | VLM | Pismo Beach | Town of Oxford | TR | Moderate (only for residents) | See above | Low | 1.1% | See above | See above | See above | See above |
| Thompson | VLM | Otisfield Cove | Town of Otisfield | TR | Low-little parking | See above | Low/Mode rate | No CBI | See above | See above | See above | See above |
| West | CLP | No public ramp | | | | | | No CBI | Moderate | None | High | No public ramp; extensive local effort to remove CLP. |
| Little Androscoggin River | VLM | Rte 11 (hyrdo) is TR; Rte 26 (Welchville Dam) and Jordan Rd (Mechanic Falls) both hand-carry. | Unknown | See left | Low | Unknown | Unknown | No CBI | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Risk of spread can't be adequately assessed without better understanding of use and proximity infested areas to access points. |
| Little Ossipee River | VLM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Messalonskee Stream | VLM | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Presumpscot River | VLM | Dundee Head Pond | Town of Windham? | H | Low | Unknown | Low | No CBI (hand carry only) | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | Inadequate information to make meaningful assessment for Presumpscot sites. |
| Presumpscot River | VLM | Sacarrappa Head Pond | SAPPI (SD Warren) | H | Low | Unknown | Low | See above | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | |
| Presumpscot River | VLM | (Covered Bridge) - Hurricane Road | Unknown | H | Low | Unknown | Low | See above | Unknown | Unknown | Unknown | |

Notes:

1. Type: TR=ramp for trailers; H=hand carry only
2. Plant export rate is for *any* plant, native or non-native found during inspection. Average statewide rate of boats inspected exiting lakes with plants attached is 6.9% (1,408 of 20,547 inspections).

Plant codes

CLP=Curly Leaf Pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*)

VLM=variable leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*)

EWM=Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

HYD=Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*)

Sec. 2. Surface water extraction information and review

This section of the resolve directed the DEP to:

- collect data on the types and extent of surface water extraction and
- review surface water extraction activities to determine in each case if an informational letter to the extractor regarding the spread of aquatic invasive plant species is necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of an aquatic invasive plant species through the surface water extraction process.

DEP, with help from Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) staff, identified water extractors most likely to collect and transport water from infested lakes. The initial group identified included pool water tankers, landscapers, pesticide applicators, hydroseeding contractors, municipal and Maine DOT contractors, other general contractors, Maine DOT crews, and municipal fire departments. Water extractors identified and contacted in this process are compiled in Appendix C.

DEP interviewed a subset of the users withdrawing in areas of the state with infested water bodies to better understand water withdrawal operations and attempt to more accurately assess risk of spread. The interviewer (either LEA or DEP staff) ran through a pre-set script with each water extractor (Appendix D). The name of the person was noted and contact information was verified.

Surface Water Withdrawal: Main User Groups Summary

Fire Departments:

Each fire department differs, but there are two main groups:

- 1) Fire companies that *only use hydrant systems* to draw water. This is done because it is quicker to drive to the nearest hydrant and back to the station than drive to a lake to withdraw water. Examples include Lewiston, Millinocket, and Auburn.
- 2) Fire companies that draw from *hydrant systems and, streams, and lakes*. These departments use either debris filters (which do not exclude plants) or do not use any filters. One type of equipment cleaning method consists of hosing everything down and drying it before use and another is removing any visible plant material. Some of the Department chief's were aware of lake infestations, while some were not. Examples of those who withdraw water from infested lakes include Windham, Raymond, and Sidney, as well as other area towns.

DOT and contractors (including hydroseeders):

DOT guidance to prevent spread of plants was previously created with help from DEP. This guidance includes withdrawing from the same watershed of the construction project, not drawing water from known infested lakes, and cleaning all plant material.

Contractors working for DOT withdraw water for dust control, compacting fills, and hydroseeding. In the summer a contractor may have a dust control truck running constantly.

DOT contracts can prohibit contractors from withdrawing water from infested waterbodies. DOT has, in the past, included language to this effect but this practice has not been the case recently. One consideration would be if withdrawing from an uninfested waterbody requires significant extra driving and therefore substantially increased cost. In those instances, some provision for increased vigilance to avoid plant transport would help.

DEP will work with DOT in 2011 to draft new language to be included in contracts for work being done near infested waterbodies. The wording would prohibit withdrawal from infested waterbodies unless no other nearby water source exists and the activity is of low risk for spreading plants to other water bodies.

Agriculture/Irrigation:

After talking with DEP staff familiar with aspects of irrigation operations, it appears that equipment used to withdraw surface water usually stays on the same body of water. If no equipment is being moved from one waterbody to another, there is little risk of transferring invasive plants.

Pool Companies:

There were three companies identified in Maine. When asked about infested lakes one company manager seemed a little unsure while claiming some degree of awareness. The other two companies were quite knowledgeable. One manager was very aware of the problem and was even upset about all of the people who are ignorant of the issue. The interviewer asked the manager if he'd be willing to be more involved in this process and help with creating additional outreach and he was amenable to helping.

Outreach Specific to Water Extractors

DEP staff judges the risk of spread by water withdrawal operations to be relatively low, but some effort is still warranted to raise awareness and recommend management practices to reduce the risk of spread by this vector. Prior to passage of this resolve, DEP had sent letters, including a list of the known invasive aquatic plant infestations, to one of the pool tanker companies. DEP had also coordinated with DOT staff to include guidance described above in DOT contracts.

Extending this outreach to other water extractors identified in 2010 is warranted. As of this time, DEP has a mock-up of a large postcard format which could be mailed or attached to an email as a pdf file. Annual outreach would be ideal but biennial may be more realistic given other program demands. The format will likely be electronic and timed to best advantage (at the beginning of the operating season). The outreach should include the latest list/map of infested water bodies, a link to that and other information, and a reminder that it's illegal to transport any aquatic plant on a public road.

In addition, the outreach message will recommend Best Management Practices for water withdrawal, including:

- Check hoses and screens for plants and debris both *before* placing them in and *after* removing them from any water body. Remove any plants and debris found; dispose of plants.
- Do not allow tanker water to flow back into any body of water.

- For any non-fire fighting use: DEP strongly discourages drawing water from any of the water bodies listed as infested on the DEP website.

In 2010 DEP created an outreach piece specifically targeting fire departments to be distributed through the Maine State Federation of Firefighters newsletter (Appendix E).

Sec. 3 Coordination of DEP & DIFW educational and outreach efforts

In response to LD 1548, Maine Departments of Environmental Protection and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife have furthered their collaboration in education and outreach activities in 2010 to more effectively reach Maine residents and visitors with information on the risks and prevention of new plant invasions in Maine lakes. Among other things, this collaboration includes:

- Motorist outreach. DEP staff is reviewing effectiveness of existing signage found on Maine Turnpike and other roadways that provide ingress to the state. Professional expert opinion—most likely from out of state where billboard advertising thrives—will be sought in conjunction with the Authority and DOT.
 - Ongoing invasive species information on the DIFW Turnpike radio will continue.
 - DEP has continued to provide Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) with brochures for distribution at the southernmost toll station to all northbound motorists towing a boat. Brochure distribution at this point has a few shortcomings, however. Motorists using EZ-Pass bypass human toll takers that distribute brochures. Also, toll takers have not been thorough about handing out brochures as witnessed in an interview-based survey taken at the Kennebunk rest stop. Subsequent communication with MTA resulted in their management's agreement to bolster toll takers' effectiveness.
- Boat ramp signage. Signage is available in two variants—addressing preventive measures (boat equipment inspection, removal of all plants, empty fish well) at uninfested lakes and like measures for infested lakes. Infested lakes signage has been revised with addition of a red border to more boldly identify site as infested.
- DEP and DIFW jointly produced and DIFW emailed a letter in June 2010 addressed to all fishing and hunting license holders – approximately 100,000 customers – about the invasive species problem. This correspondence included a link to a Public Service Announcement (PSA) produced this summer by the two agencies (see below).
- DIFW produced a one half-page, four-color advertisement that ran in the Maine Sportsman, Northwoods Sporting Journal, and Maine Fish and Wildlife magazine. A link to the PSA (see below) was included in the Maine Fish and Wildlife magazine.
- DEP staff met and discussed invasive species issues with Maine Guides at DIFW-hosted annual meeting.
- DIFW provided space in their fishing rulebook and DEP produced an advertisement on invasive plants and zebra mussels.
- DEP distributed an annual brochure showing invasive plant infestations throughout Maine.

- DEP will complete a new brochure in 2011 with graphics of invasive aquatic plants for 2011 to fill a need voiced by boat inspectors and boaters.
- DEP and DIFW staff hosted booths at the annual PaddleSmart symposium hosted at Husson University in 2010. The symposium promotes paddling safety, enjoyment and now greater awareness of invasive species identification and prevention.
- DIFW staff hosted an information booth at the Moosehead Lake Seaplane Fly-in in 2010. DEP hosted a similar booth for the first time in 2009; both agencies are now committed to continue reaching this public at this meeting.
- DEP continued providing information on the state of Maine lake infestations published by the national Sea Plane Association in their annual landing directory. DEP furthered this outreach by placing a full-page color advertisement in this directory welcoming pilots but asking them to leave invasive plants behind.
- DEP and DIFW staff produced a 27-second PSA in summer 2010 that aired at high-visibility (morning and evening news hours) throughout August and half of September 2010 on WCSH and WABI television stations. The spot was also posted on a DIFW website (<http://registremblay.wordpress.com/2010/05/27/dep-and-ifw-collaborate-to-fight-invasive-plants/>).

Continued collaboration by both agencies is anticipated to escalate as our shared efforts provide broader and more efficient reach to our respective constituencies. Also, collaboration will become increasing indispensable as new, yet-undiscovered invasive threats such as Didymo (an invasive alga), zebra mussel, Asian clam and quagga mussel encroach upon Maine borders.

Sec. 4. Working group

A working group consisting of representatives from Maine Congress of Lake Associations , Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, the legislature, bass fishing groups, Maine Warden Service, DIFW and DEP have met several times to discuss ways to increase attention and awareness to the issue of invasive aquatic species, their potential for being spread due to recreational activities, and how best to reduce that threat. Several areas were identified, including increased outreach and informational efforts, tightening the rules and enforcement related to bass tournaments, identifying lakes and ramps most likely to be sources of plant spread, and expanding boat inspections entering and exiting during tournaments, among other initiatives.

The group met again December 16, 2010 to review last summer's fishing season, discuss how initiatives worked, and identify areas in need of continued or increased attention. Fishing tournaments contributed over 6,000 inspections to DEP's 2010 boat inspection database (approximately 15% of all inspections entered to date) although there was at least one occasion when the tournament boat inspectors were not present as required by DIFW's permit. Representatives of bass fishing clubs asserted that the inspector-staffing parameters of the 2010 permit did not fit the way most tournaments operate. The discussion therefore focused on how state agencies and the tournament fishing community can work together to ensure that all boats entering and leaving tournaments are inspected.

Specific points discussed at the December 16 meeting included:

- Potentially revising the inspector-staffing requirements for tournaments to reflect tournament operations and logistics. The intent would remain the same, i.e., that all boats entering and leaving a tournament are inspected
- Clarifying for clubs the process for delivering inspection reporting forms, i.e., all forms go to DIFW which then forwards them to DEP for data entry
- Encouraging collaboration on inspections between fishing clubs and local Courtesy Boat Inspection Programs
- The importance of boater safety training.

The working group will meet again in early February 2011 to consider revisions to the tournament permit requirements that DIFW staff will draft and distribute prior to the meeting.

New invasive aquatic plant species infestations identified in 2010

Two new infestations were identified in 2010. First, a suspicious plant found in Great Meadow Stream that feeds Great Pond, in the town of Belgrade, was confirmed by DNA analysis to be the invasive aquatic plant variable milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*). Local volunteers under direction of Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance undertook removal by hand and deployed benthic barriers this summer. A surface use restriction declared jointly by DEP and Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (DIFW) prohibits motorized watercraft from the stream for a specified period while this removal effort is underway. The infestation is likely only two or three years old but is fairly well established in the stream and the stream mouth where it enters the lake. Additional surveys are needed in 2011 to determine if the plant has spread to other parts of Great Pond.

Variable water milfoil was also found in Purgatory Stream, Litchfield, by Cobbossee Watershed District staff. The infested area on Purgatory Stream is less than one mile downstream of the Woodbury Pond outlet dam. Woodbury and its chain of upstream lakes are not known to be infested with an invasive aquatic plant as verified by active local plant patrollers (IPP). Since Purgatory Stream flows into Cobbossee Stream which does have an entrenched population of variable water milfoil, it appears likely that this infestation was transplanted from the extensive infestations just downstream. The lush growth on Purgatory Stream indicates a longstanding infestation.

But there was also good news in 2010 for the infested lakes list. DEP in October removed Pleasant Lake in Casco from the state roster of infested waterbodies. Since it was documented in 2000, volunteers from Pleasant Lake/Parker Pond Association have tackled the variable water milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) infestation there and in upstream Lilly Brook. By aggressive hand removal and benthic barrier controls, the infestation has been drastically reduced in the brook and eliminated from Pleasant Pond proper. DEP de-listed the lake since none of the invasive plant has been seen at the Pleasant lake site for the last three years.

The 2010 discoveries, and the Salmon Lake and Damariscotta Lake infestations mentioned early in this report, highlight the need for continued commitment to boat inspection programs, the prevention prong of the program, and vigilance in searching lake shores for invasive plants, the early detection prong. We can dramatically reduce risk of spread but cannot eliminate it entirely. Early detection of new infestations may allow effective control of invasive plants that get through undetected.

Stewards of Maine's lakes are fortunate that there is a dedicated fund for prevention, early detection, and control of invasive aquatic plants and nuisance species. That said, funding for the State's invasive species program is not likely to increase in the near term. The partners in this effort – state agencies, statewide and regional organizations, and local lake associations – must continue their significant collaboration developed since the formal program began in 2001. This collaboration may come in the form of group purchases of equipment and services, streamlined volunteer training programs, and sharing of information on new techniques and approaches between groups.

One specific example of the need for innovation is how to get more boaters to inspect their boat, trailer and equipment *on their own, without an inspector present* at the ramp. A preliminary study by DEP interns in 2009 suggests that only 16% of boaters inspect before launching or after retrieving their boat. Awareness of milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants is much higher than that (above 80%), but awareness does not necessarily equate with action. We need new ways to prompt boaters to take the short amount of time needed to protect lakes, rivers, and streams from additional infestations of invasive aquatic plants.

APPENDIX A: Full text of Resolve Chapter 203

PLEASE NOTE: The Office of the Revisor of Statutes *cannot* perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

Resolve
124th Legislature
Second Regular Session
Chapter 203
H.P. 1090 - L.D. 1548

Resolve, To Prevent the Spread of Invasive Plants and Protect Maine's Lakes

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, it is essential that the efforts to prevent the spread of invasive plants in Maine's lakes proposed in this resolve be initiated before the start of the spring boating season; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1 Review of lakes within the State infested with aquatic invasive plant species. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall collaborate to review all lakes individually in the State with known infestations of aquatic invasive plant species to determine:

1. The type, extent and location of each infestation and its proximity to boat access points;
2. The general uses of the body of water;
3. The extent of involvement by local courtesy boat inspectors and lake associations regarding the prevention and control of aquatic invasive plant species; and
4. The use of existing surface water management strategies.

The departments shall collaborate with lake associations and user groups to identify private boat ramps on lakes infested with aquatic invasive plant species. For purposes of this section, "boat access point" includes but is not limited to public boat ramps, carry-in sites, lake access provided by sporting camps and private boat ramps and access areas; and be it further

Sec. 2 Surface water extraction information and review. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection shall collect data on the types and extent of surface water extraction and review surface water extraction activities to determine in each case if an informational letter to the extractor regarding the spread of aquatic invasive plant species is necessary to prevent the introduction or spread of an aquatic invasive plant species through the surface water extraction process; and be it further

Sec. 3 Educational and outreach efforts. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall work cooperatively to increase the effectiveness of educational and outreach efforts regarding aquatic invasive plant species through methods that may include but are not limited to:

1. Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife radio broadcasts;
2. Placing signs about aquatic invasive plant species on Interstate 95;
3. Prominently publishing information about aquatic invasive plant species on the departments' publicly accessible websites;
4. E-mailing aquatic invasive plant species alerts to e-mail addresses contained in databases of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; and
5. Improving communication with sporting and tourist camps and professional guides; and be it further

Sec. 4 Working group. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall facilitate the continued work of an aquatic invasive plant species working group that includes the Maine Congress of Lake Associations, a statewide sporting group, bass fishing clubs and any other person or entity that the working group determines is necessary to conduct its work. The working group shall continue its work exploring initiatives related to aquatic invasive plant species and collaborate with the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004D. The working group shall assign a chair, who is in charge of convening the meetings and keeping notes of discussions. The working group shall hold meetings before January 1, 2011 and may continue its work after that date as needed; and be it further

Sec. 5 Report. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters and the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species, established pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12004D, by January 2, 2011 regarding matters contained in this resolve and on any new aquatic invasive plant species infestations identified; and be it further

Sec. 6 Funding. Resolved: That the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife shall meet the requirements of this resolve within existing resources but may accept outside funding to supplement those resources.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.

Appendix B: Surface Use Restriction Statute

38 MRSA §1864. EMERGENCY AUTHORITY TO REGULATE SURFACE USE

The commissioner and the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may jointly issue an emergency order to restrict access to or restrict or prohibit the use of any watercraft on all or a portion of a water body that has a confirmed infestation of an invasive aquatic plant. The order must be for a specific period of time and may be issued only when the use of watercraft on that water body threatens to worsen or spread the infestation. The order may require that watercraft on waters affected by the order be taken out of the water only at locations identified in the order. The order may require inspections and cleaning of watercraft, watercraft trailers and equipment upon removal at sites that have been identified in the order. Inspections must be conducted by designated state boat inspectors. For purposes of this section, "designated state boat inspector" means a person employed by the State and identified by the department or the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as a person who is qualified to properly conduct inspection activities. [2003, c. 627, §8 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

2001, c. 434, §A7 (NEW). 2003, c. 551, §20 (AMD). 2003, c. 627, §8 (AMD).

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Appendix C: Water Extraction Contacts 2010

| Name | Type of use | Organization | Phone | email address | Town | Notes |
|----------------------|---------------|--|----------|--|---------------------|--|
| Dale Pierson | Nursery | Pierson Nurseries | 499-2994 | | Biddeford | Informed me that he does not use water from infested lakes and doesn't know of anyone who would in his area, which is residential. He gave me the name of the Agricultural Water use Program Manager |
| Elizabeth Listowich | Hydroseeding | Norpine Landscaping | 265-2430 | norpine@roadrunner.com | Kingfield | Called 5/19/10. No answer |
| Samantha Howard | Hydroseeding | Gordon Landscape and Hydroseed | 876-4849 | gordonconstruction.sam@gmail.com | Newport | Called 5/19/10 No Answer |
| Michael Clark | DOT | DOT | 592-8242 | michael.clark@maine.gov | State agency | Called 5/19/10. No answer. Email: Drafting new rider for contracts that would prohibit withdrawal from infested waters unless no other nearby water source exists and the activity has low risk of spread to other waters. |
| Peter Newkirk | DOT | Former DOT, but now DEP | | | State agency | Emailed and sent attachment about DOT's SOP |
| Mary Jane Dillingham | Various | Auburn Water District | 784-6469 | mjdillingham@awsd.org | Auburn and vicinity | Water District issues permits for water tankers who pay 30 cents per 1000 gals of water. Tankers must have back flow preventers, clean hoses. She suggested that tankers that would otherwise draw from an infested lake be directed the nearest public water system for treated water (which they'd have to pay for). |
| Gary Fish | Tree Services | Maine Board of Pesticides Control | 287-7545 | Gary.Fish@maine.gov | State agency | Called 5/19/10. No answer. Email: they have some regulations, but they mainly deal with protecting lakes from pesticide spills or back siphoning |
| John Harker | Agriculture | Dept of Agriculture Agricultural Water Use Program Manager | 287-7620 | john.harker@maine.gov | State agency | Dale Pierson gave me his name; no contact w/him yet |

| Name | Type of use | Organization | Phone | email address | Town | Notes |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|---|
| Geoffry Low | Fire Dep. | Auburn Fire Department | 784-5433 ext 23 | | Auburn | Called 6/17/10: Typically use fire hydrants, but will draw out of lakes about 10 times a year. They only use large debris filters. Excess water is dumped back at the fire station and all equipment is cleaned. They are unaware of any infested lakes. |
| Chief Paul LeClair | Fire Dep. | Lewiston Fire Department | 513-3002 ext 3600 | | Lewiston | Called 6/17/10: They draw from hydrant systems 99% of the time- it is quicker to drive to the nearest hydrant and then back to the station |
| Not Obtained | Fire Dep. | Millinocket Fire Department | 723-7026 | | Millinocket | Called 6/17/10: They draw from hydrant systems |
| Richard Jandreau | Fire Dep. | Sidney Fire Department | 649-1919 | | Sidney | Called 6/17/10: They draw water from small ponds and sometimes rivers. They use a regular filter/strainer. They hose down equipment and let it completely dry before using again. Chief Jandreau was familiar with infested waters and said they do not draw water from them!-VERY HELPFUL |
| Robert Orr | Fire Dep. | Raymond Fire Department | 655-1187 | | Raymond | Called 6/17/10: (Didn't seem to want to talk about the issue) They draw 75% of water from freshwaterbodies-Panther, Raymond, Crescent, Thomas, Sebago. No filtering standards and not very much cleaning. Said he was aware of some infested areas and made sure to clean any plant material off equipment. |

Status of Invasive Aquatic Plant Spread Prevention as Required in Resolve Chapter 203
December 31, 2010

| Name | Type of use | Organization | Phone | email address | Town | Notes |
|--------------|-------------|---|----------|------------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Not Obtained | Fire Dep. | Windham Fire Department | 892-2525 | | Windham | Called 6/17/10: Didn't willingly offer information about operations; rude. |
| John O'Dea | Contractors | Associated General Contractors of Maine | 446-8805 | jodea@agcmaine.org | Statewide | Called 6/28/10: John would be glad to distribute information/guidance via their e-newsletter which goes to 600+ members. Even better, he'll send to members of the site work committee which includes large contractors who either withdraw water themselves or sub-contract to smaller scale hydroseeders. |
| Alan Terrio | Pools | | 212-7532 | | Auburn and vicinity | Called 7/27/10: Draws one to ten times a day depending on weather (mostly from lake Auburn). Has check valves and filter with 1/4 inch holes on hose. Rinses equipment with chlorinated water a couple times a year (didn't specify how often). Tries to stay away from infested areas although it didn't seem like he knew of any specific areas. |
| Don Wing | Pools | | 649-4833 | 1085 Clinton Ave, Benton ME, 04901 | Benton and vicinity | Called 8/4/10: He was extremely helpful. Withdraws from various streams and ponds a couple times a day. Has double filter and makes sure to remove all aquatic material. Has stickers on trailers to remind workers- very knowledgeable about subject and is angry at ignorant people. Gave me number for Warren Hood (Splash) who is also very adamant about the subject. I gave him my phone number in case he has any outreach ideas! <i>Don would like some more milfoil stickers and brochures for truck.</i> |

Appendix D: Rough script for interviewing water extractors.

My name is _____ from the Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton (or DEP). We are conducting research for the Invasive Aquatic Plant Program at Maine Department of Environmental Association. DEP wants people who pump water from lakes to know which lakes in Maine have invasive plants so they can prevent the spread of invasive plants to other lakes. But before conducting any information campaign to the water extractors, DEP needs to learn more about water withdrawal operations. May I ask you several questions about water withdrawal?

Potential questions to be asked of water extractor groups:

- How wide an area do you serve? Note county or group of towns/general area. This may prompt asking if they withdraw water from one or more of lakes X,Y,Z that are known to be infested, or are near known infested waters.

-For what purpose are you collecting the water, e.g., fire fighting, pool filling, dust control, landscaping, hydroseeding?

-How frequently do you pull water from a lake, pond, river or stream?

-Does your intake hose have a screen for catching debris?

-What potential exists for water inside the tanker to back-flush into a water body, i.e., water from one lake is accidentally put into another lake during water collection?

-Related to previous question: Does your equipment have a mechanism to prevent this from happening (may be called a back flow preventer or anti-siphoning device – you might ask the person for the correct terminology!)?

-is it common practice to flush lines or the tank into a pond or stream?

-32 lakes in south-central Maine are infested with invasive aquatic plants. Infested lakes in your area include _____. Can you avoid withdrawing water from these infested water bodies without undue burden for your operation?

-Do you know others in your area who draw water for their operations? We'd like to inform them of infested waters in the area.

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me. If you have questions you may email milfoil@maine.gov.

Appendix E: Outreach for fire departments developed in 2010.



Invasive Aquatic Plants

The Maine Departments of Environmental Protection and
 Inland Fisheries & Wildlife ask fire departments to follow
best management practices
 when drafting from Maine's lakes and waterways.



Known Invasive Locations in Maine
 Fire Stations

Water withdrawal from a lake or stream, including drafting for fire protection and training needs, can contribute to the spread of invasive aquatic plants. These plants disrupt native habitat, lower property values, and cause economic loss of sport fisheries and water-based recreation.

Drain or discharge apparatus or pump water onto areas such as fields, woods or any area where it will not flow into any natural or man-made drainage ditch, pond, lake, or waterway.



Avoid drafting from weedy areas and do not draft from waters known to be infested.

For more information visit:
<http://www.maine.gov/dep/dli/wq/foia/invasives/>