

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIE (AIS) PROTOCOL

Steps to take if an Invasive Plant or Animal is Found

1st step: Document & Mark the Location – Obtain a Sample:

- **Mark the Location**
 - ✓ Obtain a GPS location and report the Zone and Grid number.
 - ✓ Mark the location with a brightly colored, weighted (4oz), and flagged noodle float. Flag should read: DO NOT remove, Possible invasive weed. Remember that a GPS location obtained with your phone may have an accuracy of +/- 15-50 ft hence, a physical marker is critical.
- **Photograph the plant –**
 - ✓ take a high-resolution photo (large format) to highlight the plant's stem, leaves, and any bracts or flowers.
 - ✓ Cut a cross section perpendicular to the stem to show the arrangement of leaves. Include a scale in the photos (coin, ruler, etc.).
- **Collect a Sample** – See below in **Steps for AIS Sampling**

2nd step: For AIS verification:

- **Notify either Maria or Don:**
Maria Gross (603-491-3107 - cell; 603-447-6068 - home)
Don Yurewicz (713-253-1211)
- If neither Maria nor Don are reachable, then call either:
Tim Keith (617-285-4945) or Bill Petry (781- 929-2021)
Steve Kafka (617-869-2366)
Brad Gaudreault (Office: 603-447-6704 – state reason for call)

3rd step: Definitive Identification:

- **Contact Georgia Bunnell** of NH DES by Email with the AIS location and photos for her to identify: georgia.e.bunnell@des.nh.gov (phone: **603-271-2248**).
- If Georgia requests samples, deliver, or mail the specimen(s) immediately to:
Georgia Bunnell, Limnologist
29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

Please do not mail specimens on Thursdays or Fridays. Specimens will decay quickly in the mail. If you collect this specimen late in the week, please refrigerate or keep it on ice until you can mail it.

- **If she determines that the specimen is invasive**, she will arrive to inspect as soon as she is able, and divers will determine the extent of the infestation. Her reputation for responding is renowned for being very quick. She will confirm with the Conway Lake AIS Patrol contact and Cliff Cabral what **kind of AIS** was found. Discussions with strategies for its removal will be discussed among Georgia, Cliff, and the CLCA board.

4th step: Notify Cliff Cabral

- Once the AIS is confirmed, notify Cliff Cabral (CLCA employed AIS diver and owner of New England Milfoil: nemilfoil@gmail.com, cell **603-387-2425**).
- Cliff will dive and determine the wider extent of the plant. He will help us to remark this area, as necessary, with additional buoys to restrict any boat activity and allow for unhindered investigation.
- Georgia might be able to bring NHDES buoys that she uses during AIS harvesting.

5th step: Notify Conway and Eaton Selectmen

- **Conway Township Selectmen:**
Website: <https://conwaynh.org/staff/>
Phone: (603) 447-3811 - Dial 2 Board of Selectmen/Town Manager
Email: conway@conwaynh.org

- **Eaton Township:**
Phone: (603) 447-2840
Email: selectmen@eatonnh.org

Steps for AIS Sampling of Plants & Animals

1. Collect a representative piece of the aquatic plant (full stem, leaves, flowers, or fruits if available).
2. Wrap the plant neatly in a moist (not dripping) paper towel.
3. Seal the specimen in a sturdy (ex: used for freezing) zip lock bag and label with:
 - Name of waterbody and Town
 - Date that the sample was collected.
 - Location of collection (GPS would be ideal, photo of shoreline with landmark AND, if possible, leave your weighted noodle)
 - Program you are part of: VLAP, Weed Watcher, Lake Host or other (indicate what)
 - Your name + phone number + email
 - Comments

Please be sure to include the information above – it will help NH DES to identify a location for the plant as well as how to contact you once the specimen is identified.

If needed, refer to NH DES WEBSITE for Exotic (Invasive) weeds and animals:
<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/exoticspecies/index.htm>