

**Adirondack Mountain Club  
NYS Federation of Lake Associations  
Protect the Adirondacks  
The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**Legislation to Prohibit Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species round  
New York by Boats Advances in the State Legislature**

*Bill is sponsored by Assembly Representatives Barbara Lifton and EnCon Committee Chairman Robert Sweeney and Senator Tom O'Mara requires that no boats be allowed to launch at a public or private boat launch in New York if it is not clean, drained and dry*

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Albany, NY -- This legislation (A. 7273/S. 9619) aims to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) by requiring the removal of visible vegetation and animals from boats as well as removing all areas of standing water in the engine, hulls, and live wells, when using any public or private boat launching facility in New York. This legislation prohibits the launching of boats that have any visible plant and animal matter on any surface of the boat or trailer or contains any standing water. Boats should be clean, drained and dry.

Laws that prohibit the transport of AIS are common throughout the U.S. Many states, such as Minnesota, Vermont, New Hampshire, Washington, Idaho, Montana, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, Massachusetts, and South Carolina, among others have similar laws. The new legislation will also give the Department of Environmental Conservation authority to draft AIS control regulations for boat transport.

“New York State lags significantly behind many other states in the U.S. for control and management of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Over the last few years, New York has lost ground in the campaign to stop the spread of AIS, hurting the State’s economy and ecosystems alike. This legislation will significantly reverse that trend and reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species around New York, ” said Roger Downs, Conservation Director Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter.

Comprehensive statewide action is vital because in New York we still have places like the Adirondack Park, and other areas of Upstate New York, where major lakes remain un-infested

with AIS. Unlike most of the rest of New York, most of the major lakes and ponds in the Adirondacks remain free of AIS, but the numbers of infested lakes continues to grow.

“The time for action is now. Upstate New York is often cited as an economically depressed area. Yet Upstate is an area rich in incredible lakes, ponds and rivers. The water quality of Upstate New York is vital to the local economies and supports a number of businesses, resorts, vacation homes, and high property values. AIS can rapidly change the ecology of a lake and seriously diminish recreational enjoyment. A much greater investment is needed by New York State to prevent the spread of AIS in order to protect the Upstate economy, environment and quality of life,” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of Protect the Adirondacks.

In 2012, there were 460,000 motorboats registered in New York and tens of thousands of boats are transported all around the state each year. Motorboats are the main vectors of AIS spread. The State of New York just started a mandatory boat control program on Lake George and a handful of towns and counties have passed boat control and laws against AIS transport.

“It is imperative that the Department of Environmental Conservation gets the authority to prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species. If we are to protect the many uncontaminated lakes in the Adirondacks and statewide from invaders that will ruin water quality, swimming, fishing and boating, the legislature must pass this bill now and send it to Governor Cuomo for his signature”, said Neil F. Woodworth, Executive Director of the Adirondack Mountain Club.

As more lakes become infested with AIS costs of control efforts rise. AIS control is very expensive, often beyond the means on lake associations, local governments and limited funding from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). Prevention and interdiction are far less expensive and will do much more to control the spread of AIS than the combined control and management efforts underway across New York.

“Lake associations are increasingly having to shoulder the financial burden of managing invasive species that are brought into lake by all who recreate on lakes. With this law, everyone will share the costs and benefits of protecting our valuable lake resources,” said Nancy Mueller, Manager, New York State Federation of Lake Associations.

The recent costs of unsuccessful control efforts on Lake George for the Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) and for hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) on Cayuga Lake show the high costs of control efforts. Millions of dollars have been spent on these efforts. Given this reality, New York needs to significantly improve its AIS prevention and interdiction infrastructure.

The 2014 NYS Legislative session ends on June 19<sup>th</sup>. A major push will be made to pass this bill with legislative leaders, organizations, and lake associations from around the state.