

Watercraft Inspection Webinar Series Empowers Statewide Efficiency

Invasive species are increasingly challenging New York water resource managers. As watercraft inspection programs around the state continue to expand, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is providing training and resources to assist programs in offering the best education and messaging to stakeholders.

In 2017, NYSG continued its watercraft inspection program educational webinar series, initiated in 2015, to bring regional experts and inspection program leaders together to share information and discuss ways to collaboratively standardize programs and advance invasive species prevention across NY State.

"The opportunity to learn about recent advances in aquatic invasive science and the standardizing of data collection across New York is enhancing the efficiency and efficacy of aquatic invasive species reporting, and encourages citizen stewardship of valuable water resources statewide."

— NYSG Watercraft Inspection Program Leader Trainer
Brittney Rogers

NYSG responded to stakeholder feedback to select topics for the 2017 series:

- Approaches to Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Programs
- Watercraft Inspection Legislation and Regulations
- Small Program Logistics, Funding and Partnerships
- Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Data Collection App
- Predicting Aquatic Invasion in Adirondack Lakes.

The Great Lakes Commission and Invasive Mussel Collaborative hosted the first session of the 2017 series with presentations by NYSG, Michigan State University, the University of Wisconsin, Wildlife Forever, and CD³, a general benefit corporation manufacturing watercraft cleaning stations. This session was part of an ongoing effort to facilitate learning and information sharing on topics of common interest within the invasive mussel-related community.

One session reviewed the results of the new data collection app tested by six of NY's 20-plus inspection programs, noting recent aquatic invasive detections aboard boats launching or leaving NY waters.



NYSG is a go-to resource for watercraft inspection program development and standardization. Photo: NYSG

Across the five webinars, 390 registrants represented local, state, regional and federal entities from 17 states: AZ, CA, CT, IL, IN, ME, MD, MI, NH, NY, NC, OH, OR, PA, VT, VA, WI; Washington D.C.; and Canada's Ontario, Québec, and Nova Scotia provinces.

**Watch the 2017 webinar series at
www.nyseagrant.org/watercraftinspection**

Series funding was provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation District and Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance.

Partners:

- Cornell University, Cornell Cooperative Extension
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
- Black Lake Association • Adirondack Lakes Alliance
- New York Natural Heritage Program: iMapInvasives
- Ryerson University • GeoEco Design

***The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is
Healthy New York Ecosystems & Habitats***

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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