



Slow the Invasives, Use Disposal Stations

By Salmon River Steward Emily Freeman

The Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Steward Program educates the public about the proper use of natural resource areas. Salmon River Stewards monitor public access sites along the Salmon River and associated reservoirs from the mouth of the Salmon River in Port Ontario to the Salmon River Reservoir in Redfield, NY.

One area of focus for the stewards is educating recreational users about slowing the spread of aquatic invasive species. The spread of invasive species can harm habitats by invasive species out-competing native species for resources, such as light and food. This competition can cause a decrease in species diversity and the overall quality of native species.

Aquatic invasives can also create unsightly vegetation mats that can disrupt aquatic food webs and cause negative impacts on recreation by clogging waterways.

To reduce the negative impacts of aquatic invasive species, the Salmon River Stewards are encouraging the use of Nuisance Invasive Species Disposal Stations. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) installed these stations at the Jackson Road and Route 17 public boat launches in the Salmon River Reservoir area.

Through public education, the Stewards encourage boaters, anglers and other recreationalists to slow the spread of invasive species by discarding all hanging vegetation, bilge and bait-bucket water, and unused baitfish into the stations. NYSDEC Fish and Wildlife Technician III Russ Davall says, "These stations are a great way to keep discarded invasive species contained in a small area where they can decompose naturally without spreading to other areas.

Since the spread of aquatic nuisance species can destroy natural resources quickly and without warning, these disposal stations are crucial in the efforts to keep the Salmon River corridor environmentally stable and productive for many generations to come.

Using the NYSDEC Nuisance Invasive Species Disposal Stations can slow the spread of unwanted species. Photo: Emily Freeman, Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Steward Program



The statements and views expressed in this publication are those of the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Stewards who are student authors. 9/09

Invasive Species: What are They and How Can You Slow Them Down?

What is an Invasive Species?

- According to the National Invasive Species Council, an invasive species is a species that is non-native to the ecosystem and its introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health
- The New York State Invasive Species Task Force adopted this definition in 2005, adding that a non-native species can only be considered invasive if the harm it causes significantly outweighs any benefits



Photo: Emily Freeman, Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Salmon River Steward Program

What are Common Traits of Invasive Species?

- Extremely adaptable, able to occupy many diverse habitats
- Short maturity period; high reproduction rate
- Do not rely on one food source like many native species do
- Reduce diversity of plants and animals in the area
- Out-compete native species for food and habitat
- Plant species create large mats of vegetation, clogging waterways
- High economic cost to eliminate or diminish

What are Nuisance Invasive Species Disposal Stations?

- 3'x3' wooden boxes with gravel bottoms for drainage
- Yellow and brown signs alert boaters to "stop aquatic hitchhikers!"
- Able to hold vegetation, bilge and bait-bucket water, and unused baitfish from boats and fishing and recreational equipment
- Provide a place for invasive species to decompose naturally
- Contain invasive species in a small areas, slowing further spread of that species

Clean and disinfect your boat and fishing equipment before transporting to a new waterbody to help slow the spread of invasive species

For More Info:

National Invasive Species Database: www.aquaticinvaders.org

New York Invasive Species Clearinghouse: <http://nyis.info>

Both sites are maintained by New York Sea Grant

Eastern Lake Ontario Dune & Salmon River Steward Program, 315-312-3042

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