

Candlewood Lake Authority

2021 Lake Steward Program

Final Report



Written and Compiled By:

J. Neil Stalter

CLA Director of Ecology

*Funding Provided By: CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Aquatic
Invasive Species Grant Program*

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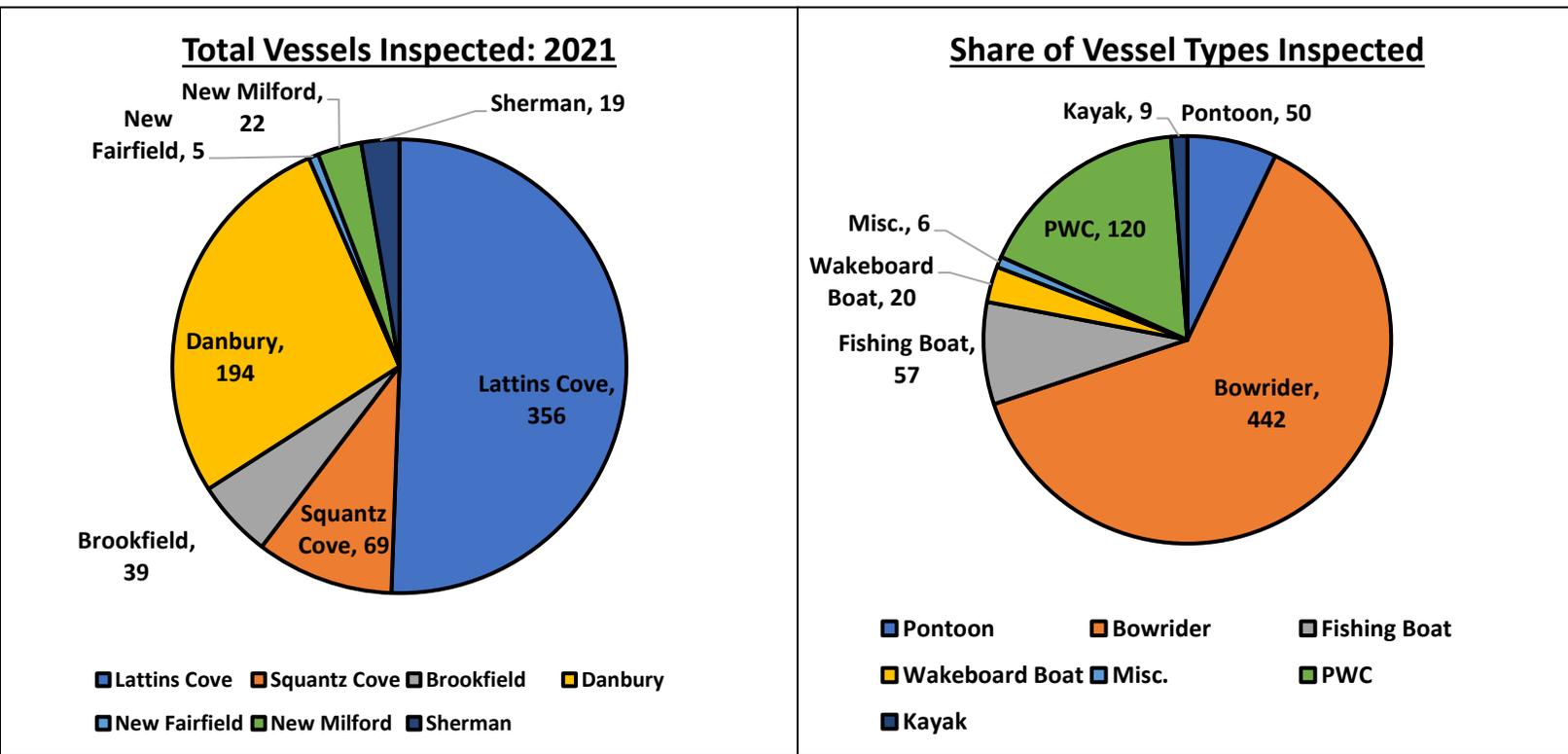
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Results Summary

	Pontoon	Bowrider	Fishing Boat	Wakeboard Boat	Misc.	PWC	Kayak	Total Vessels Inspected
Lattins Cove	20	219	33	15	6	60	3	356
Squantz Cove	8	36	8	1	0	16	0	69
Brookfield	3	29	4	0	0	3	0	39
Danbury	10	135	7	1	0	36	5	194
New Fairfield	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	5
New Milford	6	7	4	2	0	2	1	22
Sherman	3	12	1	1	0	2	0	19
Total Vessels	50	442	57	20	6	120	9	704

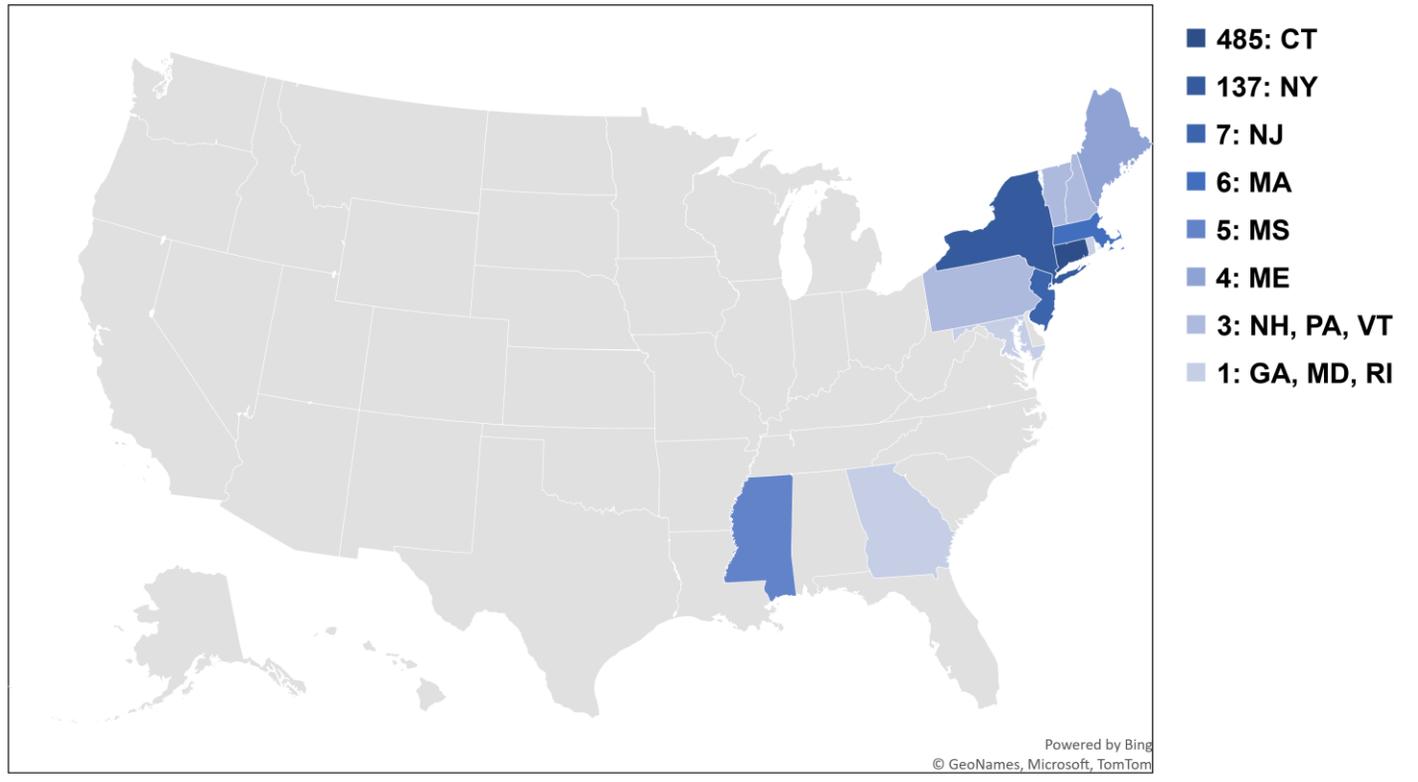
Table 1: Total Vessels Inspected by Launch & Type of Vessel



Graph 1: Total Vessels Inspected by Launch

Graph 2: Total Vessels Inspected by Type

Registration State of Boats Entering Candlewood Lake



Map 1: Registered State of Boats Entering Candlewood Lake

	Lattins Cove	Squantz Cove	Brookfield	Danbury	New Fairfield	New Milford	Sherman	Total
CT	241	27	31	151	5	15	15	485
NY	73	39	1	22	0	0	2	137
NJ	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	7
MA	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
MS	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	5
ME	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
PA	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
GA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MD	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NH	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3
RI	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
VT	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3

Table 2: State of Registry by Launch Used

Previously Visited Lake	Boats
Candlewood	518
Lake George, NY	21
Lake Lillinonah, CT	16
Long Island Sound	14
(Miscellaneous)	14
Lake Zoar, CT	12
Hudson River, NY	12
CT River	10
Bantam Lake, CT	8
Lake Mahopac, NY	6
Highland Lake, CT	5
Lake Champlain, NY	2
Lake Winnepesaukee, NH	2
Atlantic Ocean	2
Gulf of Mexico	2
(Blue Marsh Lake, PA)	1
(Brant Lake, NY)	1
(Coventry Lake, CT)	1
(Finger Lakes, NY)	1
(Gardner Lake, CT)	1
(Greenwood lake, VT)	1
(Lake Housatonic, CT)	1
(Lake McDonough, CT)	1
(Lake Waramaug, CT)	1
(Loon Lake, NY)	1
(Naugatuck River, CT)	1
(Sebego Lake, ME)	1
(White Lake, NY)	1
(Woodingham Lake, VT)	1

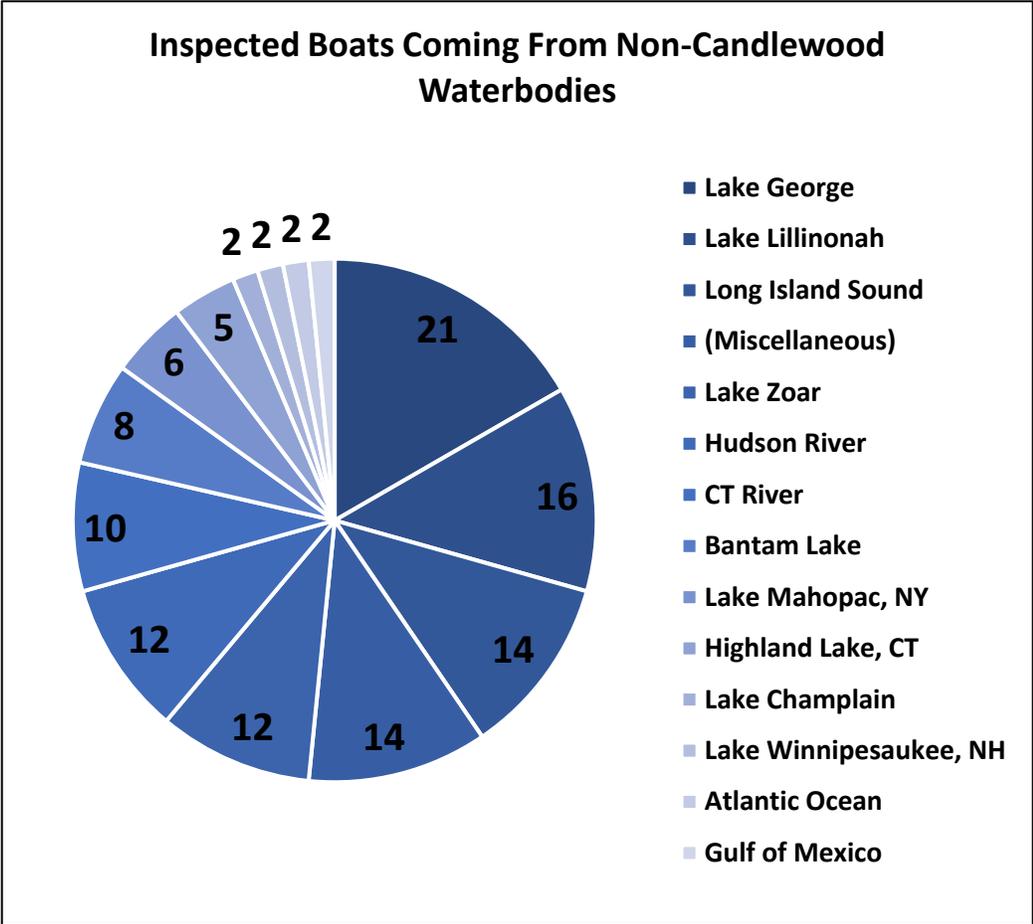
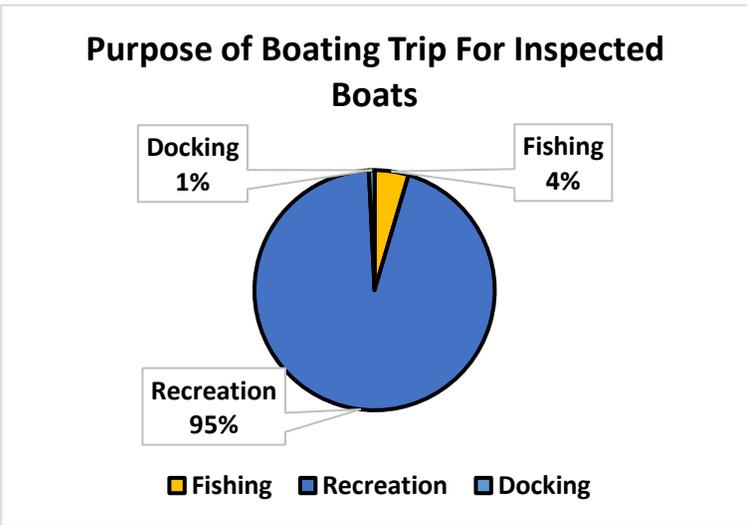


Table 3 & Graph 3: Previous Lake or Waterbody Visited before Candlewood. Note that waterbodies in “()” are part of the miscellaneous category. Boats re-entering Candlewood were by far the most common (79%) and were not included in the graph for ease of visualization.

	Fishing	Recreation	Docking
Boats	30	623	5

Table 4 & Graph 4: Stated Purpose of boating trip.



	No	Yes	Sometimes	Stays in Water
Boats	76	552	4	2

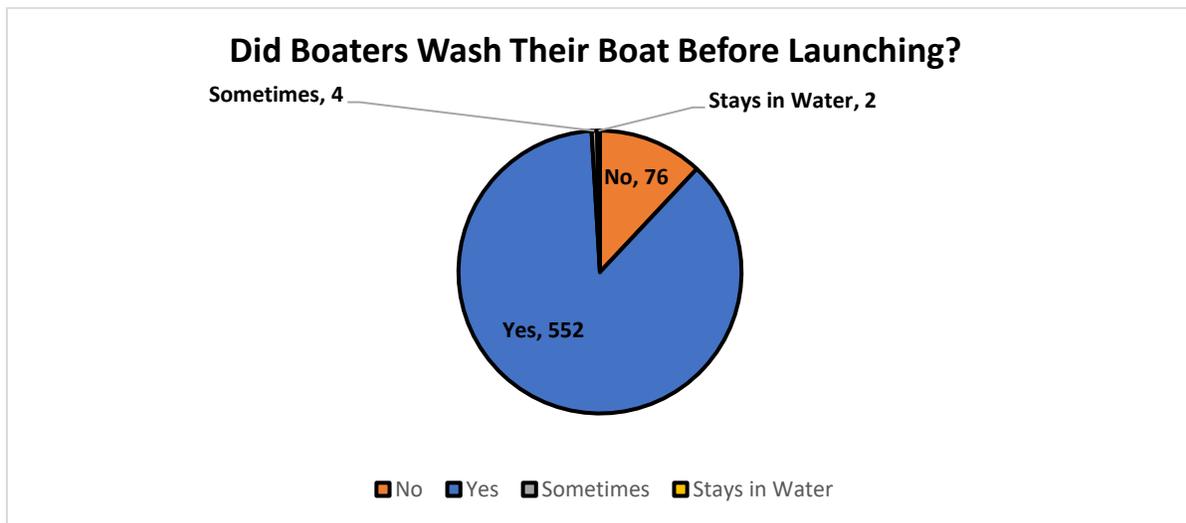


Table 5 & Graph 5: Reported washing behavior of boaters prior to launching their boat in Candlewood

	Yes	No
Boaters	351	307

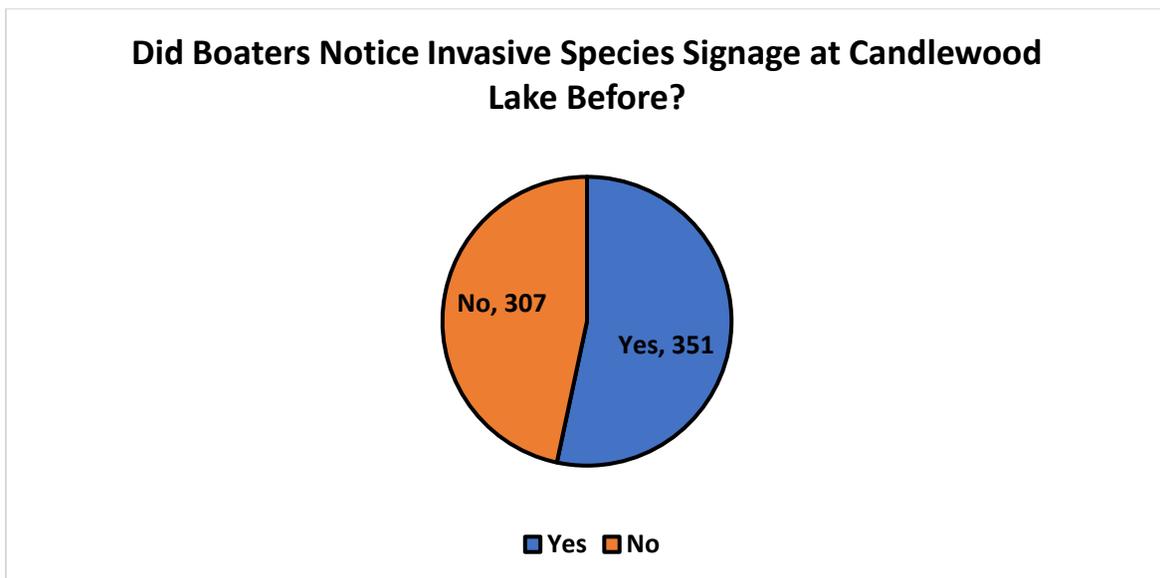
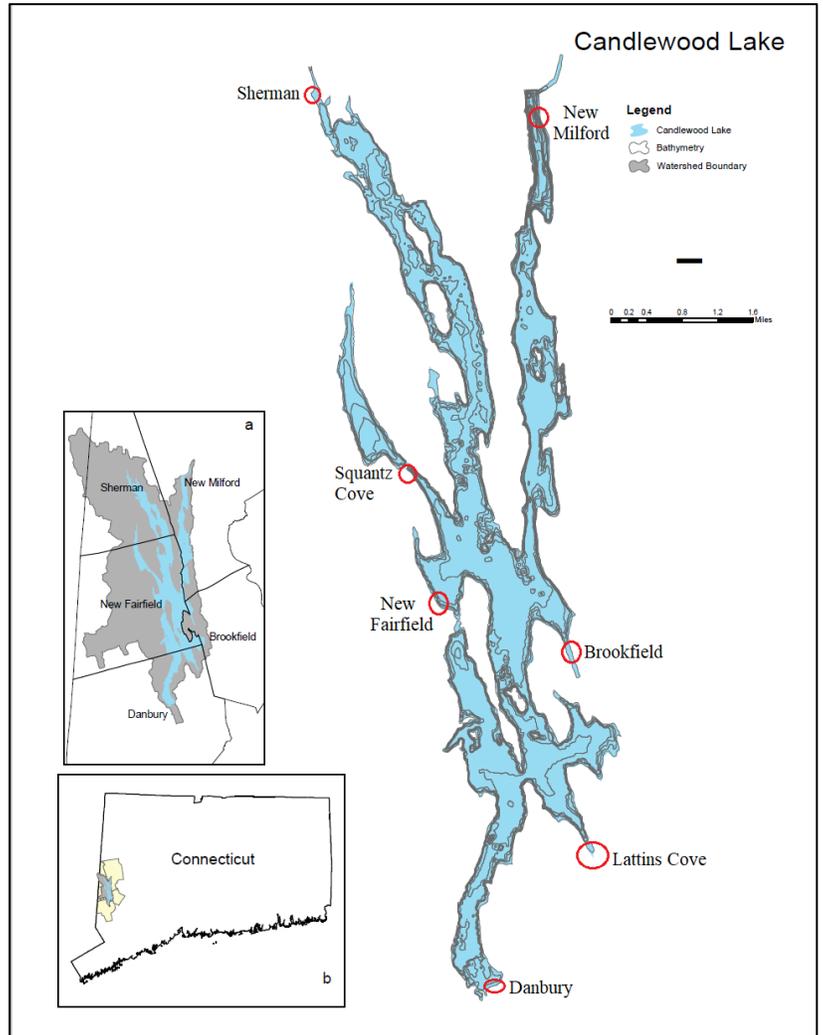


Table 6 & Graph 6: Boaters' answer to the question of whether they have noticed signage at the boat launches around Candlewood regarding Invasive Species Prevention before

Program Introduction

The Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA) “Lake Steward Program” is a brand-new program starting in 2021 meant to help prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species to Candlewood Lake, as well as educate recreational boaters on invasive species prevention. To accomplish these goals, the CLA would station “Stewards” at the 7 public launches around Candlewood Lake on peak boating days during the summer to offer free voluntary boat and trailer inspections to boaters. Those 7 launches include 5 municipally managed launches



Map 2: Candlewood Lake with 7 Public Boat Launches Highlighted.

that are reserved for residents of that town, as well as two public launches managed by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Historically, it has been relatively easy to launch on Candlewood Lake without a boat inspection for invasive species. The two main existing means of protection before the Lake Steward Program were educational signage at the ramps, and DEEP Boating Education Assistants (BEAs) who were tasked with conducting inspections at the two

state ramps, along with a host of other responsibilities. However, the signage can be difficult to notice along with all the other signage at the ramps, and the BEAs would often get so busy with traffic control and other responsibilities that they wouldn't have time to inspect every boat. CLA Stewards were meant to assist the BEAs by taking care of the inspection and invasive species education responsibilities on the busiest days, as well as add that layer of protection to the 5 municipal launches which generally just had signage. CLA Stewards would work in teams of 2, where one team member would conduct the inspection of the boat and trailer, while the other member would speak with the boater, educate them on what the program was, and collect anonymized data to help inform stakeholders about recreational patterns on the lake. Inspections and data collection were completely voluntary, and thus, not every boat entering the lake accepted



Photo 1: Two Lake Stewards Waiting for Boaters at Lattins Cove

an inspection, but the vast majority of boaters agreed to an inspection and data collection. Inspections involved a quick search of the hull, prop, and trailer, followed by asking the boater to empty their bilge, ballast, and live-well (if present). Stewards would feel the boat hull with their hands to search for small juvenile zebra mussels and other mollusk species.

Stewards were stationed at launches from roughly 8am-4pm, and would cover two different launches on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays (July 4th, and Labor Day). That would mean on any given day, two of the seven total launches would be covered. As the year progressed, and we began to get an understanding of which ramps had the most activity, our efforts became more focused on the busiest ramps, while still visiting every ramp semi-regularly to ensure our data was representative of the whole lake. Boater responses to the program were overwhelmingly positive, with most boaters not only agreeing to the inspections, but expressing their excitement about the program and their happiness to see steps being taken to protect Candlewood Lake. Stewards were trained both by CLA staff and volunteers, as well as attending a DEEP online training required for the BEAs.

Funding for this new program was provided by the CT DEEP's new grant funding opportunity for the control of aquatic invasive species (AIS) and blue-green algae, funded through the new boat registration stamp program in the state of CT.

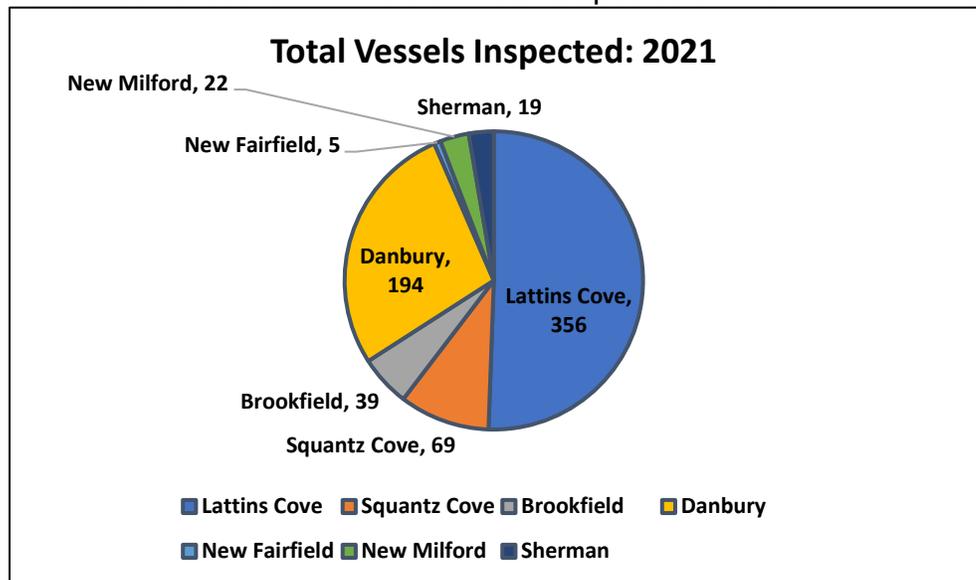
Total Inspection Results

Launch	Pontoon	Bowrider	Fishing Boat	Wakeboard Boat	Misc.	PWC	Kayak	Total Vessels Inspected
Lattins Cove	20	219	33	15	6	60	3	356
Squantz Cove	8	36	8	1	0	16	0	69
Brookfield	3	29	4	0	0	3	0	39
Danbury	10	135	7	1	0	36	5	194
New Fairfield	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	5
New Milford	6	7	4	2	0	2	1	22
Sherman	3	12	1	1	0	2	0	19
Total Vessels	50	442	57	20	6	120	9	704

Table 1: Total Vessels Inspected by Launch & Type of Vessel

From the beginning of the program on June 12th, 2021, to the end on September 6th, CLA Lake Stewards inspected a total of 704 vessels. That is 704 boats and boaters that would likely have otherwise launched into Candlewood Lake without any consideration of the potential invasive species impact they would have had. While we did not keep track of the number of boats with visible invasive species on them

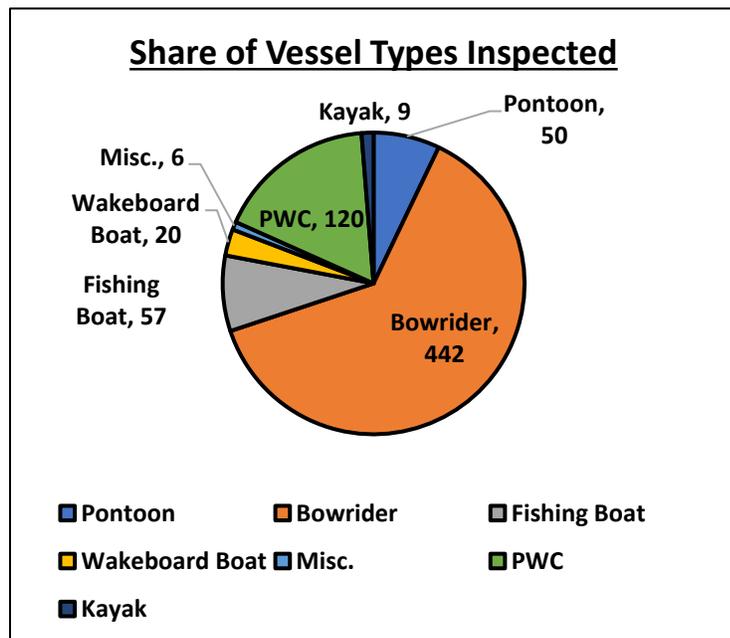
(something we will add for the next year of the project), we do have confirmed reports of many boats with invasive plants hanging off of the trailer. In any of these



Graph 1: Total Vessels Inspected by Launch

cases, all visible plant material would be removed, and the boater would be educated. Most common of those was Eurasian Watermilfoil, an invasive plant that has already established a self-sustaining population in Candlewood Lake. The stewards would take photos of any species not obviously milfoil for identification, all of which were species native to Candlewood Lake.

As shown in Graph 1, the lion's share of inspections were conducted at Lattins Cove, one of the DEEP managed launches, and the busiest on Candlewood Lake. Danbury's municipal launch was second in inspections. We cannot say for certain whether Danbury or Squantz Cove is the more often utilized ramp, as Squantz Cove was generally covered sufficiently by the BEAs stationed there; allowing our stewards to focus on other ramps, but Squantz Cove was likely more often used due to its easy parking access and openness to the public. The other 4 municipal town ramps were not used at the same rate and had a higher use at the beginning of the boating season



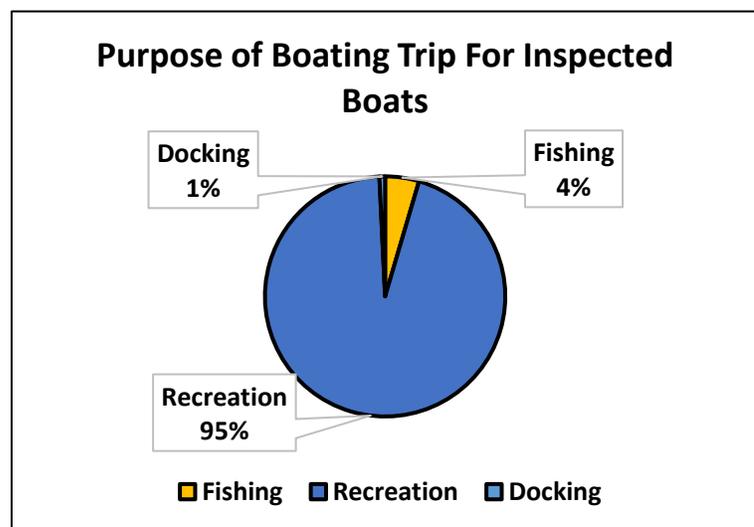
Graph 2: Total Vessels Inspected by Type

compared to the end.

As for the share of boat types launching in Candlewood Lake, shown in Graph 2, Bowriders were far and away the most common boat type, followed far behind by Personal Watercraft (PWCs, or Jet skis), then Fishing Boats and Pontoons. While the count of wakeboard boats was only 20, we

imagine there was some overlap between that and the bowrider category if the stewards weren't familiar enough with boat types to make the distinction. V-hull boats also present a unique problem for invasive species inspection, requiring inspectors to look even further beneath the hull to ensure there are no species stuck between the trailer and boat. This is something our stewards were trained in and equipped with grabbers to help get plants out of difficult to reach places.

When asked the purpose of their boating trip for the day, most boaters were general with their answer, saying things like "just for fun", "recreation", or "spend time with family." Generally, most boaters visit Candlewood Lake to spend the day on the water and enjoy multiple different activities in one day, including: swimming,



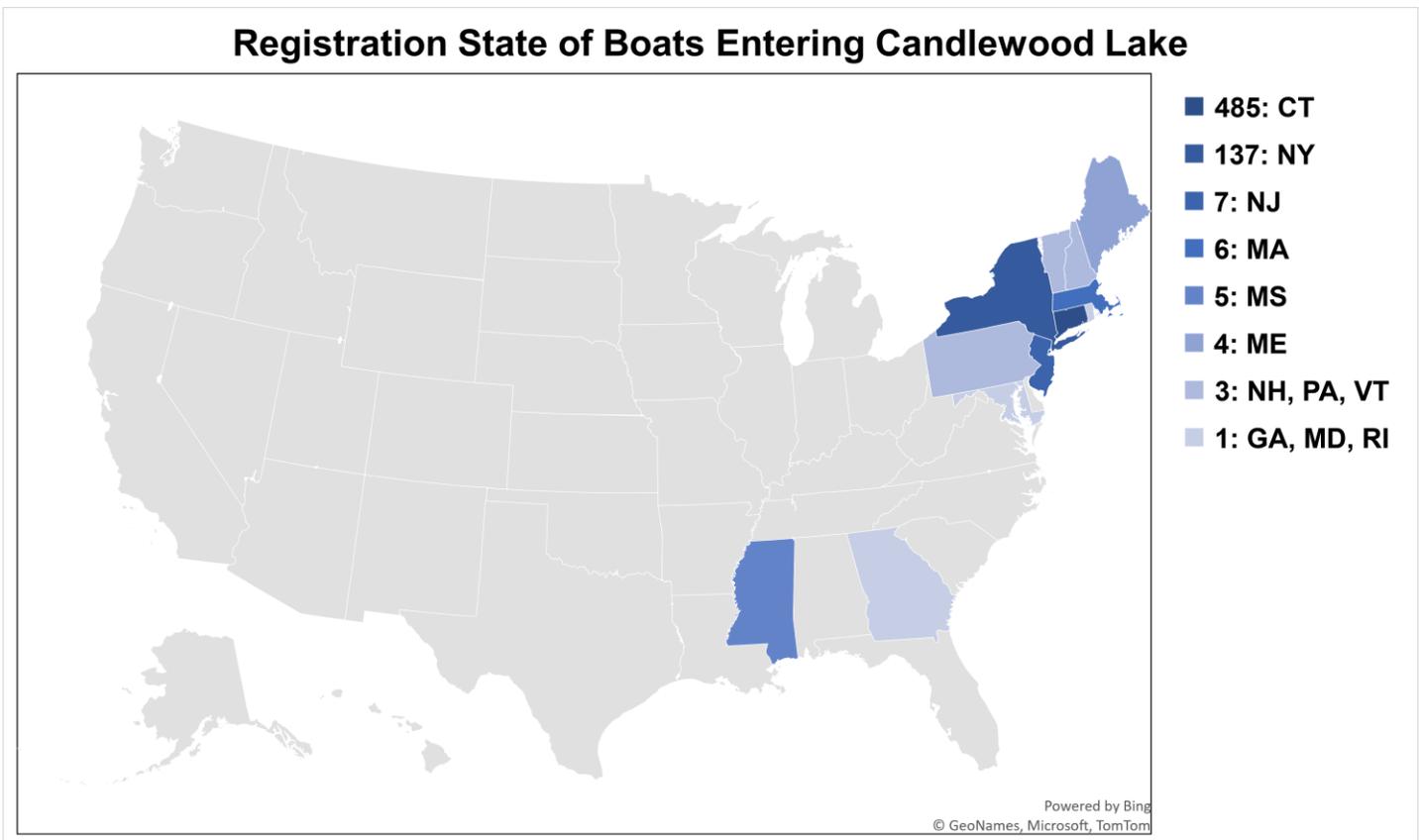
Graph 4: Stated Purpose of Boating Trip

tubing, sunbathing, eating & drinking, and just driving the boat. There were a number of boaters who were visiting for the expressed purpose of fishing, but many of those boaters might also come to Candlewood Lake during tournaments, which our stewards were not stationed at (but DEEP employees are). For future years, we will consider expanding this question to ask for more specific activities like wakeboarding, waterskiing, swimming, and general boating.

Previous Location of Boaters Results

One of our priorities in data collection was to determine whereabouts boaters were coming from when visiting Candlewood to help assess the level of risk associated with transient boat traffic. If, for instance, very few boaters were coming from other areas with invasive species that hadn't yet been introduced to Candlewood, then the level of risk of introduction would be lower than we thought. Or, if most boaters were coming from a few waterbodies with known invasive infestations, we could focus our inspection and education efforts on those species specifically.

First, in an effort to get an idea of where the boaters visiting Candlewood are from (and where their boat spends most of its time), we asked each boater which state the vessel was registered in. That information is contained in Map 1, as well as Table 2



in the “Results Summary” section of this report. As expected the vast majority (74%) of boaters visiting Candlewood had registered their boats in Connecticut. New York State, due to its proximity to the lake (including very high population of New York) was second with 21% of the boaters. Every other state was relatively rare, comprising 5% of the total between all 10 of them. These results aren’t unexpected. Due to the public nature of the lake being open for visitors, and its closeness to the NY border, it makes sense that it would be second most common registration state.

Boaters were also asked what was the most recent lake or waterbody they visited before Candlewood to get an idea of the invasive species threat presented by the transient boating community. Again, the vast majority of boaters (79%) had previously been on

Previously Visited Lake	Boats
Candlewood	518
Lake George, NY	21
Lake Lillinonah, CT	16
Long Island Sound	14
(Miscellaneous)	14
Lake Zoar, CT	12
Hudson River, NY	12
CT River	10
Bantam Lake, CT	8
Lake Mahopac, NY	6
Highland Lake, CT	5
Lake Champlain, NY	2
Lake Winnepesaukee, NH	2
Atlantic Ocean	2
Gulf of Mexico	2
(Blue Marsh Lake, PA)	1
(Brant Lake, NY)	1
(Coventry Lake, CT)	1
(Finger Lakes, NY)	1
(Gardner Lake, CT)	1
(Greenwood lake, VT)	1
(Lake Housatonic, CT)	1
(Lake McDonough, CT)	1
(Lake Waramaug, CT)	1
(Loon Lake, NY)	1
(Naugatuck River, CT)	1
(Sebego Lake, ME)	1
(White Lake, NY)	1
(Woodingham Lake, VT)	1

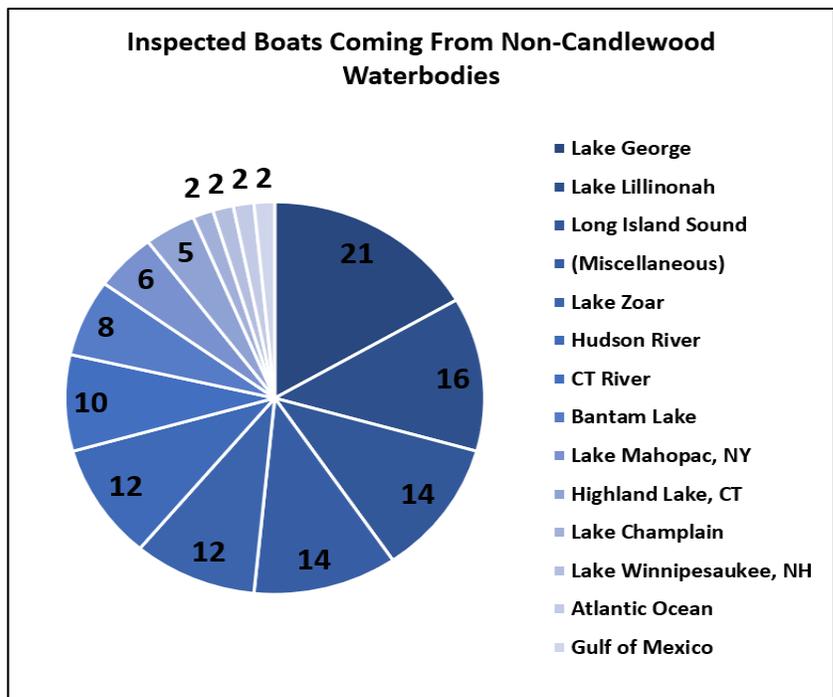


Table 3 & Graph 3: Previous Lake or Waterbody Visited before Candlewood. Note that waterbodies in “()” are part of the miscellaneous category.

Candlewood before their visit, presenting no invasive species threat to Candlewood's ecosystem. Second to that is Lake George, in Northeastern NY, which presents a relatively low invasive species risk. Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar, as well as the CT River and Hudson River all present a relatively high risk of infestation from species of concern including Zebra Mussels, Water Chestnut, and Hydrilla. There was also a higher than expected number of boats who were most recently on the Ocean, whether that be Long Island Sound, another part of the Atlantic, or the Gulf of Mexico. These boaters present a relatively low risk, as very few species can successfully sustain their populations in both the ocean and freshwater lakes. While the majority of boaters stick mostly to Candlewood, the 21% who do not do present some level of risk, meaning continued management of the boat launches for invasive species remains important.

Best Practice Implementation Results

Our final priority in data collection was trying to assess what impact, if any, educational efforts before the CLA Lake Steward program have had on the Candlewood Boating Community. Namely, how often are people taking the steps to wash, drain, and dry their boats before launching, and what impact is the signage at the ramps having on that messaging?

First, stewards asked whether boaters had washed, drained, and dried their boat prior to launching. Most boaters responded that yes, they had washed and dried their

	No	Yes	Sometimes	Stays in Water
Boats	76	552	4	2

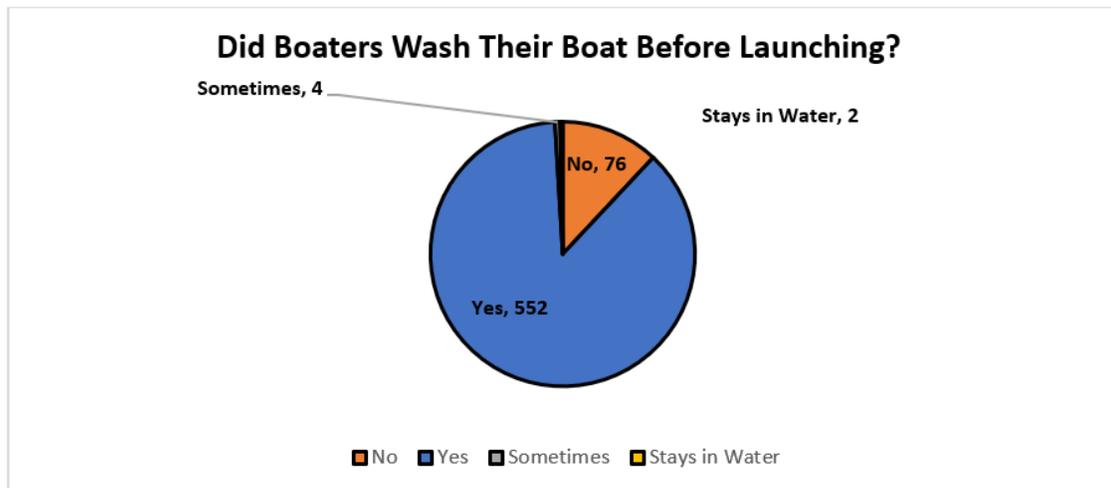


Table 5 & Graph 5: Reported washing behavior of boaters prior to launching their boat in Candlewood boat before launching, some clarified saying they hadn't necessarily drained or dried, but the majority responded that they were taking steps to protect the lake. While the inspections were voluntary, and it was clear our stewards did not have any enforcement capabilities, it is almost certain that the share of boaters who did not wash and dry their boat is larger than the amount reflected in the graph, since it involves self-reporting.

That said, this is still very good news, 87% of boaters reported that they washed and dried their boat – meaning that at the very least, they also understand that this is the best practice for protecting any lakes they visit.

Our stewards also asked boaters if they had noticed the invasive species signage at the boat launches before. It is clear here that while most boaters said they

	Yes	No
Boaters	351	307

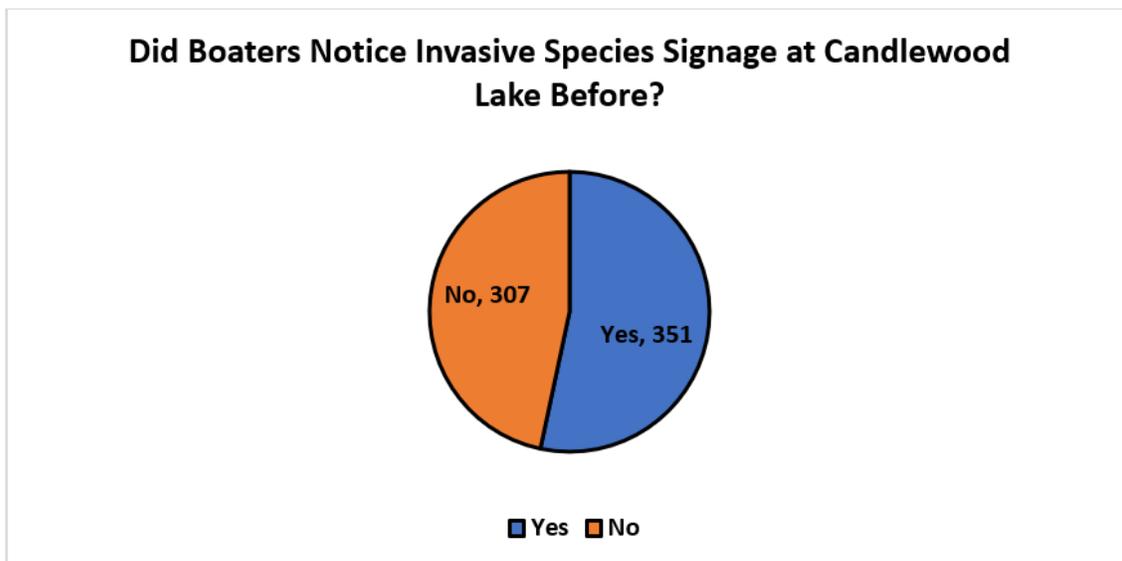


Table 6 & Graph 6: Boaters’ answer to the question of whether they have noticed signage at the boat launches around Candlewood regarding Invasive Species Prevention before

had seen the signage; this method of education is not having the impact we’d hope it would. 47% of boaters reported never having even noticed it before. This means that not only did they not read it, but that they didn’t look quickly enough to recognize it as invasive species prevention messaging. Of the 351 who answered yes, we don’t know how much of those signs that they read, after realizing what the message was. The only indication we have that the messaging is working is the relatively high percentage of boaters who reported washing and drying their boat before launching. However, this

could have come from other messaging strategies including online newsletters, the CLA and DEEP websites and social media, billboards, and second-hand knowledge from neighbors. In future years, we will consider expanding this question to give us more information about where boaters are getting their invasive species messaging from.

Conclusions

We are extremely pleased with the results of the first year of the CLA Lake Steward Program. Our program succeeded in three key areas: inspecting 704 boats that would have otherwise not been inspected, reaching 656 boaters with critical invasive species prevention messaging, and collecting new and informative data that informed this report and will inform our management moving forward.

It is clear that the majority of boaters visiting Candlewood Lake enter through the two state launches, particularly Lattins Cove, and to a lesser extent, the Danbury municipal launch. Squantz Cove launch is generally more manageable for the DEEP BEAs than Lattins due to its traffic patterns and somewhat less convenient location. The majority of boaters are also returning to Candlewood from a past visit to Candlewood, and are registered in the state of Connecticut, with a healthy number having registered their vessel in New York. There were boaters visiting from waterbodies with invasive species of concern for Candlewood Lake, including Zebra Mussels, Hydrilla, and Water Chestnut. The focus is on ensuring that these more transient recreational boaters are given the invasive species information necessary to know not to transfer any species between lakes.

The amount of boaters self-reporting that they washed and dried their boats prior to launching in Candlewood is encouraging for past invasive species messaging. However, the 12% of boaters who reported not washing and drying their boats should remain the focus. One key takeaway about invasive species education is that the current signage at boat launches around Candlewood are not having the expected or

desired impact on boaters. Whether that means that signage in general is an ineffective strategy, or that the current signage installed is insufficient remains unclear. Likely, the answer is a bit of both – making signage at ramps more obvious and easier to digest, while also employing other strategies like the steward program and online messaging are probably the best way to engage the highest amount of boaters.

For future years' lake stewards, we'd like to expand our data collection to include some more fine-grained information including: the total number of boaters that had visible invasive species on their boat or trailer, the general time of boaters' arrival to understand peak recreational periods, where boaters are getting their invasive species prevention information from, and more specific recreational activities as the goal of their voyage. We are extremely encouraged by the positive feedback received from the community regarding our stewards and this new program and feel as if this is another way for the CLA, municipalities, and DEEP to reach the boating community directly and make a positive impact.

We look very forward to future iterations of the program, and want to thank the CT DEEP again, who's funding made this program possible. Together we hope to continue having a positive impact on the lake's ecosystem and continue to preserve Candlewood Lake for generations.

Acknowledgements

The below people and organizations made the first year of the Lake Steward Program Possible, and we want to acknowledge their work here:

Our Lake Steward Manager: Dylan Cortese

Our Lake Stewards: Anabelle Gray, Kristen Cirone, Simon Russo, Olivia Kent, Mackenzie O'Rourke, Robert Mordente

Marie Nugent Personnel: Kathleen Nugent

DEEP Staff: Matthew Gocłowski, Gwendolynn Flynn, Mary Morgillo, Peter Francis

CLA Staff: Mark Howarth, Jeannine Usher, Michael Gasperino

CLA Delegates: Marianne Gaffey, Steve Kluge, Doug Cushnie, Joan Archer, Jeff Main, Bill Lohan, and all of our delegates who helped make this project possible

Everybody at the CT State Legislature, CT DEEP, and Connecticut Federation of Lakes employees and volunteers who made the AIS grant program possible.

All municipal Parks & Rec. department staff and volunteers for working with us and our stewards throughout the year.

All municipal First Selectmen and Mayors who supported the program.

The entire Candlewood Lake Boating Community for welcoming our stewards and enjoying the program!

Thank You!

Appendix A:

All Raw Data Available from the Candlewood Lake Authority upon request

to science@candlewoodlakeauthority.org

Appendix B: Weekly Steward Reports

Weekly reports prepared by Lake Steward Manager Dylan Cortese, who performed the duties of a lake steward while also setting up and packing up stations and helping to manage steward scheduling conflicts and data collection.



Preserving & Protecting Candlewood Lake Since 1972

June 12/13, 2021

Lake Stewards Supervisor Weekly Report

Prepared by Dylan Cortese

I. Overview of Lake Stewards Program – Saturday June 12 & Sunday June 13, 2021

Saturday

- New Fairfield: Dylan and Matt
- Sherman: Anabelle and Simon

Sunday

- Danbury: Dylan and Kristen
- Brookfield: Anabelle and Simon

We were all hands on deck offering voluntary invasive species boat inspections and education to boaters launching at the Sherman and Danbury locations. The overall plan was to help demonstrate to boaters how to look for invasive species on their own. All of the Stewards understand the urgency of the program in providing this critical information to help prevent this threat to our beautiful lake.

Outcomes:

Approximately 90% of the boaters we spoke with were very pleased and thankful to hear about this new program. About 50% of the boat trailers in Danbury we inspected had invasive species on their trailers. A lot of which was old and dried out but much of it was more recent and still lush. All were removed from trailers and boats.

Stats Below:

Only one type of invasive species was found, pictured below. We believe it is Eurasian Milfoil. All samples and photos came from Danbury on Sunday. No invasive species were found in Sherman.

New Fairfield: Not a single boat launched on Saturday.

Sherman: Only 4 boats launched from Sherman, all Bowriders. No boats had been in any other body of water besides Candlewood Lake. 3 of the 4 had noticed signs for invasive species. 2 boats were just there to dock, the other 2 were for recreation.

Brookfield: 15 boats launched from the Brookfield location, 20 Bowriders, 4 Pontoons, 2 fishing boats and 4 PWC. No boats had been in any other bodies of water besides Candlewood. All but one of the boats were there for recreational purposes, the other was for family. Not a single boat had seen signs for invasive species previously at the launch.

Danbury: 16 boats launched from the Danbury location on Sunday. 24 Bowriders, 3 Pontoons, 2 Wakeboard boats, 9 PWC and 2 Kayaks. No boats had been on any other body of water besides Candlewood Lake. All but 4 of the boats had previously noticed signs for invasive species. All boats were there for recreation.

Thanks to Support from



Invasive Species found:





Preserving & Protecting Candlewood Lake Since 1972

June 19/20, 2021

Lake Stewards Supervisor Weekly Report

Prepared by Dylan Cortese

I. Overview of Lake Stewards Program – Saturday June 19 & Sunday June 20, 2021

Saturday

- Sherman: Mackenzie and Kristen
- New Milford: Dylan and Olivia

Sunday

- Brookfield: Simon and Annabelle
- Danbury: Dylan and Olivia

We were all hands on deck offering voluntary invasive species boat inspections and education to boaters launching at the Sherman and Danbury locations. The overall plan was to help demonstrate to boaters how to look for invasive species on their own. All of the Stewards understand the urgency of the program in providing this critical information to help prevent this threat to our beautiful lake.

Outcomes:

Approximately 90% of the boaters we spoke with were very pleased and thankful to hear about this new program. About 50% of the boat trailers in Danbury we inspected had invasive species on their trailers. A lot of which was old and dried out but much of it was more recent and still lush. All were removed from trailers and boats.

Stats Below:

Only one type of invasive species was found, pictured below. We believe it is Eurasian Milfoil. All samples and photos came from Danbury on Sunday. No invasive species were found in Sherman.

Sherman: 13 boats launched but 10 of them were Kayaks. no boats were in any other body of water, and only one had noticed signs for invasive species.

New Milford: Only 3 boats launched from New Milford. No boats had been in any other body of water besides Candlewood Lake. All had noticed signs for invasive species.

Brookfield: 15 boats launched from the Brookfield location. No boats had been in any other bodies of water besides Candlewood. Not a single boat had seen signs for invasive species previously at the launch.

Danbury: 37 boats launched from the Danbury location on Sunday. No boats had been on any other body of water besides Candlewood Lake. All but 8 of the boats had previously noticed signs for invasive species. All boats were there for recreation.

Thanks to Support from





Preserving & Protecting Candlewood Lake Since 1972

July 10/11, 2021

Lake Stewards Supervisor Weekly Report

Prepared by Dylan Cortese

I. Overview of Lake Stewards Program – Saturday June 10 & Sunday June 11, 2021

Saturday

-Squantz: Simon and Annabelle
-Danbury: Dylan and Olivia

Sunday

-New Milford: Mackenzie and Kristen
-Lattins Cove: Dylan and Robert

We were all hands on deck offering voluntary invasive species boat inspections and education to boaters launching at the Sherman and Danbury locations. The overall plan was to help demonstrate to boaters how to look for invasive species on their own. All of the Stewards understand the urgency of the program in providing this critical information to help prevent this threat to our beautiful lake.

Outcomes:

Danbury is absolutely overrun with Eurasian Milfoil. It grows wildly right at the boat launch and constantly covers trailers with massive globs of Milfoil. Lattins Cove is also starting to show signs of being overrun if something isn't done to prevent it from growing.

Stats Below:

We found something at Lattins but we are unsure if it is invasive. Pictured below,

Squantz: 14 boats launched from Squantz. No boats were in any other body of water. All were there for fishing or fun. Only 6 had noticed signs for invasive species.

Danbury: Only 6 boats launched from Danbury. No boats had been in any other body of water besides Candlewood Lake. All were there for recreation. Only half had noticed signs for invasive species.

New Milford: 6 boats launched from the New Milford location. No boats had been in any other bodies of water besides Candlewood. One boat had seen signs for invasive species previously at the launch. 4 declined inspection.

Lattins Cove: 17 boats launched from the squantz location on Sunday. One boat had been to gardner and another to lake lininoah. All but 1 of the boats had previously noticed signs for invasive species. All boats were there for recreation or fishing.

Thanks to Support from







LAKE AUTHORITY

Preserving & Protecting Candlewood Lake Since 1972

July 17/18, 2021

Lake Stewards Supervisor Weekly Report

Prepared by Dylan Cortese

I. Overview of Lake Stewards Program – Saturday July 17 & Sunday July 18, 2021

Saturday

-Lattins Cove: Olivia and Kristen
-Danbury: Dylan and Robbie

Sunday

-Sherman: Simon and Annabelle
-New Fairfield: Dylan and Kristen

In heavy rain or scorching sun, in gale force winds we're having fun... providing voluntary invasive species boat inspections and valuable information to boaters launching at the public and town launches around the lake. Once again our basic plan was to help demonstrate to boaters how to look for invasive species on their own. All of the Stewards understand the urgency of the program in providing this critical information to help prevent this threat to our beautiful lake.

Notes: *I am going to add a section to the Google sheets document to show the weather on each given day as it has significantly impacted the number of boaters.*

Weather Sat: Sunny but began to rain heavily later in the day - 81° _____ **Weather Sun:** Rain 77°

Outcomes:

Approximately 90% of the boaters we spoke with had a very positive reaction and appreciated hearing about the new program, especially if they were from out of state. About 50% of the boat trailers in Danbury we inspected had invasive species on their trailers. It grows right there at the launch causing a large amount of it to be pulled out along with peoples' boats and trailers as they came out of the water. All were removed from trailers and boats.

Stats Below:

Lattins Cove: 33 boats launched but 14 of them were Jet skis. 2 boats had been in another body of water, the Hudson and Lake George. Both had washed and dried their boat since then and were clear. All but three had noticed signs for invasive species.

Danbury: Only 6 boats launched from Danbury. One boat had been to Lake Chaplain but no other boat had been in any other body of water besides Candlewood Lake. All boaters had noticed signs for invasive species.

Sherman: 1 boat launched from Sherman. It had not been in any other bodies of water besides Candlewood. They had seen signs for invasive species previously at the launch.

New Fairfield: No boats launched from the New Fairfield Location.

Thanks to Support from





July 24/25, 2021

Lake Stewards Supervisor Weekly Report

Prepared by Dylan Cortese

I. Overview of Lake Stewards Program – Saturday July 24 & Sunday July 25, 2021

Saturday

-Lattins Cove: Mackenzie and Dylan

Sunday

-Squantz Pond: Dylan and Robbie

-New Milford: Kristen and Olivia

Although we only occupied three launches this weekend, there were a massive amount of boats launching on Saturday thanks to it being one of the nicest days of the summer! Sunday was raining on and off which led to mostly fishermen launching through the day.

Weather Sat: Beautiful and sunny! 90° **Weather Sun:** It was rainy and most of the boats that launched were fisherman 84°

Outcomes:

The beautiful weather brought many many boaters on Saturday to the state launch! There were so many boats that the launch was closed periodically throughout the day. On Sunday the majority of people that went out were boaters with the exception of one diver and a few families that wanted a day on the quieter lake due to weather.

NOTES: Mahopac Lake in New York has been found to have Zebra Mussels but is not currently on the list of infected lakes on our pamphlets. The boats that came from there were thoroughly checked and nothing was found. The information is according to <http://www.lakemahopac.org/>

Stats Below:

Lattins Cove: 51 boats launched from Lattins. Most boats had been in Candlewood lake last, however there were boats from the Hudson River, Mahopac Lake, Bantam Lake, Highland Lake, Blue Marsh, Long Island Sound and Coventry Lake. All but 3 boaters had washed and dried their boat before launching. All but 11 boaters noticed signs for invasive species.

Squantz Pond: 10 boats launched from Squantz Pond. No boats had been in any other bodies of water besides Candlewood except for one that had been in Lake George. Every single boat had seen signs for invasive species previously at the launch. All boats were from CT NY or NJ.

New Milford: 3 boats launched from the New Milford location. No boats had been on any other body of water besides Candlewood Lake. All boaters had previously noticed signs for invasive species. All boaters were there for recreation. One declined an inspection. All were from CT.

SUMMER 2022 PROPOSED LAKE STEWARD COLLABORATION

There is a significant opportunity for the Candlewood Lake Authority through my work with the Steward Program and DEEP to join forces and engage students at WCSU in various fields of study such as Biology, Environmental Studies and Communication to take an active role in the prevention of invasive species. This coming Fall semester I would like to prepare a presentation on the Lake Steward Program and speak before classes and professors to propose this collaborative association with a selected group of students in those majors interested in summer jobs as Lake Stewards focusing on expanding the reach of the program. Interested WCSU students will participate in a hands-on experience to help prevent the destruction of the natural ecosystems in our state bodies of water and have a positive impact on our environment.



Preserving & Protecting Candlewood Lake Since 1972

July 31 / August 1, 2021

Lake Stewards Supervisor Weekly Report

Prepared by Dylan Cortese

I. Overview of Lake Stewards Program – Saturday July 31st & Sunday August 1st, 2021

Saturday

-Lattins Cove: Olivia and Kristen
-Danbury: Dylan

Sunday

-New Milford: Olivia and Kristen
-Brookfield: Dylan and Robbie

The collective love and appreciation of this new Lake Steward program has been very warm and welcoming. Many boaters from both out of state and in state would love to see washing stations and further methods taken to ensure the prevention of the spread of invasive species. Every town launch and state launch has had many many friendly, helpful boaters who want to help keep the lake a wonderful, fun place to spend their summer.

Notes: One of the grabbers used to pull off invasive species from under trailers broke at the Danbury launch. The trigger snapped while pulling off some Eurasian Milfoil. Although we have a spare i recommend ordering at least 2 more.

Weather Sat: Sunny but very cool breeze! 75° ____ **Weather Sun:** Sunny but chance of rain 77°

Outcomes:

The cold wind and weather on Saturday did nothing to deter boaters from launching for a day on the lake, however Sunday's chance of rain kept most people away for the entire day.

Stats Below:

Lattins Cove: 66 boats launched from Lattins Cove Saturday. 14 boats had been in another body of water, the Hudson, Lake Zoar, Finger Lakes, Long Island Sound, Mayopach Lake, White Lake, Mass Lake and Lake George. Only 7 had not washed and dried their boats, none of which had come from any other body of water besides Candlewood. All but 11 had noticed signs posted for invasive species.

Danbury: Only 2 boats launched from Danbury. Neither boat had been in any other body of water besides Candlewood Lake. Both were registered in CT and had washed and dried their boats before launching. All boaters had noticed signs posted for invasive species.

Brookfield: 5 boats launched from Brookfield. Only 3 had been in Candlewood Lake last, the other two were in the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean respectively. All but those two were registered in CT, the outliers being from New Jersey and Florida. They had seen signs posted for invasive species previously at the launch.

New Milford: No boats launched from the New Milford Location.

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LAKE AUTHORITY

Preserving & Protecting Candlewood Lake Since 1972

August 7/8, 2021

Lake Stewards Supervisor Weekly Report

Prepared by Dylan Cortese

I. Overview of Lake Stewards Program – Saturday August 7th & Sunday August 8, 2021

Saturday

-Lattins Cove: Olivia and Makenzie
-Brookfield: Dylan

Sunday

-Danbury: Robbie and Annabelle
-Squantz Pond: Dylan and Simon

Notes: Beautiful Weekend and perfect weather for boating!!

Weather Sat: Sunny with a nice breeze 85° _____ Weather Sun: Sunny with very light rain 81°

Outcomes:

All launches went smoothly, although the Brookfield Launch needs a new Aquatic Hitchhikers sign as the old one is ripped in half and buried in bushes.

Stats Below:

Lattins Cove: 36 boats launched from Lattins Cove. 6 boats had been in another body of water, the Hudson, Lake Lillinonah, Bantam Lake, Lake Zoar and Lake George. All but 6 had washed and dried their boat since their last visit. All but 4 had noticed signs for invasive species.

Brookfield: Only 9 boats launched from Brookfield. One boat had been to the Gulf of Mexico but no other boat had been in any other body of water besides Candlewood Lake. All but 3 boaters had washed and dried their boat between visits. All but 4 boaters had noticed signs for invasive species.

Squantz Pond: 26 boats launched from Squantz Pond. Only one had been in any other bodies of water besides Candlewood being Lake Zoar. All but 5 had washed and dried their boat since their last visit. All but 6 had seen signage for invasive species previously at the launch. One boat declined inspection.

Danbury: 14 boats launched from the Danbury location. All had been in Candlewood lake last. Only 2 of the boaters had not washed and dried their boat between visits. All had seen signage for invasive species. 2 boaters declined inspection.

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August 14/15, 2021

Lake Stewards Supervisor Weekly Report

Prepared by Dylan Cortese

I. Overview of Lake Stewards Program – Saturday August 14th & Sunday August 15, 2021

Saturday

-New Milford: Olivia and Kristen
-Brookfield: Dylan and Makenzie

Sunday

-Danbury: Robbie and Simon
-Lattins Cove: Dylan and Annabelle

Notes: Sunday was an absolutely perfect day for boating!

Weather Sat: Thunderstorms 81° Weather Sun: Sunny with a cool breeze 88°

Outcomes:

All launches went smoothly on Sunday, the thunder storms on Saturday greatly hindered the number of people launching.

Stats Below:

New Milford: 5 boats launched from New Milford. All had been in Candlewood Lake last and have washed and dried their boat since their last visit. All but 1 had noticed signs for invasive species.

Brookfield: Only 3 boats launched from Brookfield. One boat had been to the Gulf of Mexico but no other boat had been in any other body of water besides Candlewood Lake. All boaters had washed and dried their boat between visits and had noticed signs for invasive species.

Lattins Cove: 74 boats launched from Lattins Cove. Only two had been in any other bodies of water besides Candlewood being Lake George. All but 11 had washed and dried their boat since their last visit. 21 had not seen signage for invasive species previously at the launch. 16 boats declined inspection.

Danbury: 31 boats launched from the Danbury location. All had been in Candlewood lake last. All of the boaters had not washed and dried their boat between visits. All had seen signage for invasive species. 4 boaters declined inspection.

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August 28/29, 2021

Lake Stewards Supervisor Weekly Report

Prepared by Dylan Cortese

I. Overview of Lake Stewards Program – Saturday August 28th & Sunday August 29, 2021

Saturday

- New Milford: Annabell and Simon
- Danbury: Dylan and Robbie

Sunday

- Danbury: Anabelle and Simon
- Lattins Cove: Dylan

Notes: We were scheduled to be at Squantz Pond on Saturday but since DEEP has that launch locked down tight thanks to Dennis and Claire we felt it would be better to go to Danbury where we were more needed.

Weather Sat: Thunderstorms 85° **Weather Sun:** Sunny with a cool breeze 77°

Outcomes:

All launches went smoothly on Sunday, the thunder storms on Saturday greatly hindered the number of people launching.

Stats Below:

New Milford: 7 boats launched from New Milford. All had been in Candlewood Lake last and had washed and dried their boat since their last visit. All but 1 had noticed signs for invasive species.

Danbury: Only 2 boats launched from Danbury. All had been in Candlewood Lake last and had washed and dried their boat since their last visit. All but 1 had noticed signs for invasive species.

Lattins Cove: 32 boats launched from Lattins Cove. Only two had been in any other bodies of water besides Candlewood being Lake George. All but 10 had washed and dried their boat since their last visit. 24 had not seen signage for invasive species previously at the launch.

Danbury: No boats launched from Danbury on this day.

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September 4th, 5th and 6th, 2021 (Labor Day Weekend)

Lake Stewards Supervisor Weekly Report

Prepared by Dylan Cortese

I. Overview of Lake Stewards Program – Saturday September 4th, Sunday September 5th and Monday September 6th 2021

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>
-Lattins Cove: Simon and Anabelle -Danbury: Dylan	-Lattins Cove: Dylan and Robbie -Brookfield: Anabelle and Simon	-Lattins Cove: Dylan and Robbie - Danbury: Anabelle and Simon

Notes: The Program from our perspective has been an absolute success. We have helped over 600 boaters this summer and educated them as to the nature and danger of invasive species and what to watch out for as well as the importance of Clean Drain and Dry.

Weather Saturday: 77° **Weather Sunday:** 75° **Weather Monday:** 86°

Outcomes:

A beautiful holiday weekend brought a great number of boaters to the lake for the wonderful weather and end of season. We also had our first sailboat launch of the summer! Perfect conditions for boaters to be out on the lake.

Stats Below:

Lattins Cove: 50 boats launched from Lattins Cove. All but 7 had been in Candlewood Lake last, the others were from Lake Lillinonah and Lake George. All but 1 had washed and dried their boat since their last visit. 36 had never noticed signage for invasive species.

Danbury: There were only 2 boats that launched from Danbury. Only one had washed and dried their boat since their last visit. Only one had seen signs about invasive species in the past.

Lattins Cove: 11 boats launched at the Lattins Cove launch. All but three had been in Candlewood Lake last, the others were from Lake Chaplin, Lune Lake and Lake George. Three boats had not washed or dried their boats since their last visit and only 5 had seen signs depicting invasive species at the launch in the past.

Brookfield: Not a single boat launched from Brookfield.

Lattins Cove: 71 boats launched at Lattins Cove. Many were last in Candlewood Lake but there was a menagerie of other lakes visited including Canada Lake, Bantam Lake, the Hudson River, Long Island Sound, Vermont Reservoir, Lake Zoar, Atlantic Ocean, Lake Lillinonah, Lake George, Lake Winoski, Lake Squamp and Lake Oramaung. All but 7 had washed and dried their boat since the last body of water. 32 people had never seen signs about invasive species before at the launches.

Danbury: 33 boats launched from Brookfield. All but three had been in Candlewood Lake last, the others were from Lake Lillinonah and Lake George. All but one boater had washed and dried their boat between visits; however only 4 had noticed signage for invasive species.

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