

Grass Roots

Advocacy and stakeholder groups have grass roots support to promote aquatic invasive species management in New York State. The Coalition of Lakes Against Milfoil - known as COLAM -, for example, now has members in all parts of the State, with the goal to eradicate or minimize the impact of Eurasian Watermilfoil in New York's waters. COLAM advocates for: the implementation of a statewide invasive species management plan; a consistent and streamlined permitting process throughout New York which includes early detection and rapid response utilizing all effective control methods including herbicides; and a partnership between New York State and the lake associations that would include funding and technical assistance. A similar group, the counties belonging to the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance - or FLOWPA - organized in 1984 to deal with Eurasian Watermilfoil.

National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse

Establishment of zebra mussels in the Great Lakes prompted the need for basic information on aquatic invasives, including their biology, ability to spread, impacts, ecology, and potential for management. To meet this need, the Empire State Electrical Energy Research Corporation provided initial funding to support the New York Sea Grant Clearinghouse, now the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse, established in 1990, currently receives funding from the National Sea Grant Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and publishes quarterly information on research, meetings, legislation, and sightings of important aquatic invasive species. This information is used to encourage and facilitate communication among researchers and stakeholders through the Clearinghouse's *Aquatic Invaders* publication. The main thrust of the Clearinghouse is to be a repository of published information on aquatic and in some cases terrestrial invasive species encompassing both peer reviewed and "gray" publications. The Clearinghouse serves a critical function to its stakeholders in New York State and other states, but will require dedicated funding to support and maintain its high profile visibility and utility. Visit the Clearinghouse at its website: www.aquaticinvaders.org

New York Sea Grant has been funding and implementing aquatic nuisance species research and extension outreach programs since the early-1980s, when it began responding to information and education needs pertaining to Eurasian Watermilfoil and nuisance algae blooms on Lake Ontario and the Finger Lakes. Since the introduction of the Zebra Mussel into the Great Lakes Basin in 1988, New York Sea Grant has been a national leader in aquatic invasive species research and outreach.

In addition to being the home of the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Clearinghouse, New York Sea Grant is a member of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Panels on Aquatic Nuisance Species (established by the National Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force), and helps to provide those bodies with outreach education assistance and research linkages. A Senior Extension