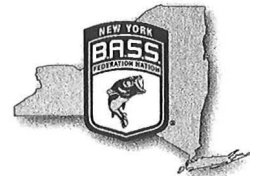


CONSERVATION CORNER

By Burnie Haney - Conservation Director



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

Logical steps we can all take to minimize the spread of unwanted biological invaders.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)... Hmmm, if that title sounds new or different to you I'm not surprised, because many people, myself included, have probably heard the term but not really paid attention to what it is.

Over the next few paragraphs we'll briefly discuss AIS and a few simple control measures you can employ to help prevent the spread of AIS and identify a survey we need your help with.

AIS and Bass Anglers

During our 2008 Annual Federation Banquet, Mr. Mark Malchoff, of the Lake Champlain Sea Grant, presented introductory information about AIS in New York State that he gathered during a three month study, and suggested measures anglers can employ to help prevent the spread of select AIS. In the course of his studies, Malchoff learned that many tour level bass anglers travel thousands of miles in a day or two, going from lake to lake throughout the competition season. While several anglers had heard of AIS, most didn't understand the various methods of distribution these aquatic species employ to get from location to location. Nor did they know the recommended control measures anglers can use to stop the spread of AIS.

NY Aquatic Invasive Species

Eurasian Water Milfoil, Water Chestnut, Fanwort, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Didymo, Round Goby, Zebra Mussel and Alewife. These are the most common AIS in New York, from Lake Erie in the West, to Lake Champlain in the East. To learn more about each of these species go to:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50272.html>

Effective Control & Disinfection Techniques

The first step is a good visual inspection of your boat and trailer, prior to the launch and again when taking out. Once on the trailer, or in the boat, they'll go right along with you to your next destination. So as soon as your boat's on the trailer and you've moved a distance far enough away (not to impede the ramp area), stop and look for hanging vegetation on the trailer, paying particular attention to the fenders, springs, axles and wheels. On the boat, inspect drain plugs, live well plugs, pump screens, gas motor prop and the trolling motor prop. Remove loose hanging vegetation and drain live wells and bilge areas and let the boat dry for a 24 to 48 hour period before your next fishing trip. How-

ever, if it isn't possible to wait for the boat and trailer to dry between fishing trips, the next best thing to do is take it to the local car wash and thoroughly wash and rinse the trailer and boat before launching in a new body of water. Be particularly aware of bilge areas, live wells and bait wells in boats. These areas are difficult to dry and can harbor invasive species.

Hot Water: Soak equipment in water kept above 140°F (hotter than most tap water) for one minute or for 20 minutes in water that is at least 110°F. Note that hot water can delaminate Gore-Tex® fabric and damage other sensitive clothing items. Household steamers may also be used for disinfection by exposing equipment to steam for 1 minute. Commercial hot-water car washes are effective for disinfecting boats and vehicles.

Bleach: Soak or spray equipment for at least one minute with a 2% bleach solution (3 ounces of household bleach mixed with 1 gallon of water). Note that bleach is an extremely effective disinfection agent, but it is a caustic substance that can be corrosive to aluminum and other sensitive fishing and boating equipment. Be sure to thoroughly rinse with clean tap water to get rid of any residual effects of the bleach. For additional information go to:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50267.htm>

Education & Future Action

Mr. Mark Malchoff and Mr. Tyler Smith, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) asked our organization to work with them in developing their AIS educational efforts across the state. In the coming weeks club presidents will be issued a URL with specific log-in ID and password instructions to an online survey. We ask that every member of your club with internet access take this survey and the results will be stored in a password protected database. No personal information is requested or expected and the intent of this survey is to determine our angler's general knowledge of AIS and collect our assessment of AIS impact on our waterways and sport of fishing.

AIS will remain a deciding factor in the future development of watersheds and fisheries management plans and fishing access opportunities. The more we know about AIS and the more we do to control their spread can only enhance the opportunities we all have for continued access and use of our state's waterways and fisheries.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On April 23rd, Senate Bill S: 4475 was referred to the Agriculture committee for action. If approved this bill authorizes the raising of both trout and black bass as a commercial food source. Our greatest concern with this bill is, if approved it could create an unnatural harvest of black bass across the state. As written, it states hatchery reared fish will be marked for sale by a means other than individually tagging the fish.

I ask you to consider this: As of today there is no commercial market for black bass as a food source. However, if an individual that runs a hatchery decides to subsidize their operational cost by mixing in a few black bass from the local public fishery and the fish aren't required to be individually marked, then how would the buyer know where this fish came from? Remember our New York DEC does not routinely stock largemouth bass or smallmouth bass, because we have a viable natural self sustaining bass fishery. Yet if this same fishery experiences excessive harvest demands, it won't take too long to deplete or damage it.

We believe the potential second and third order effects of this bill as written, far outweigh any financial gain the local community, county or state would benefit from these commercial black bass hatcheries that would be licensed and monitored by the New York Department of Agriculture.

If you support our opposition to this bill go to:

<http://open.nysenate.gov/openleg/api/html/bill/S4475> and voice your opposition.

Use this URL to email your Representative:

<https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>

Use this URL to email or call your Senators:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_i...e&Sort=ASC

REGIONAL DEC REPRESENTATIVES

Ian Palmer, of Rochester Bassmasters, stepped up last year to volunteer as our regional representative to the DEC Region 8 office. I want to thank him for his service and also announce that unfortunately for us, the pursuit of his continuing education will take him out of state for 2009, so we're looking for another volunteer.

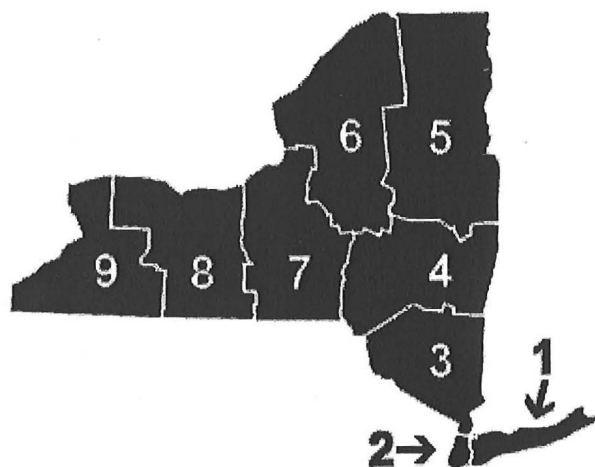
The NYBCF is seeking willing volunteers to represent us and be our eyes and ears in each of the nine DEC Regions. In short, a watch dog of sorts, to let us know whenever your region has any conservation related issues that impact our anglers. It might be access related, regulation changes, invasive species or a host of other topics your regional manager is working on.

If you're interested in becoming a representative for one of the vacant regions listed here, contact Burnie Haney at (315) 786-8897 or conservation@nybassfed.com So far we've filled five of the nine positions and we need your help.

DEC Region	NYBCF Representative
1.....	Dan McGarry
2.....	Vacant
3.....	Vacant
4.....	Skip Hommel
5.....	Mike Ellrot
6.....	Burnie Haney
7.....	Barb Elliot
8.....	Vacant
9.....	Vacant

To contact these regional representatives, go to our conservation page, scroll down to this picture and click on your region.

<http://www.nybassfed.com/Data/Conservation/Index.htm>



Practice Selective Harvest and "Free the Fighter"

Burnie Haney
 Conservation Director
 NY BASS Chapter Federation

