

Brant Lake Milfoil Hand Harvesting Summary Report 2016

The Town of Horicon and the Brant Lake Association in conjunction with the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District have teamed together to help fight the spread of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Brant Lake. The contracted agents: Aquatic Invasive Management Inc. removed 366 bags of milfoil weighing approximately 9,153 pounds from Brant Lake in their 7 weeks of hand harvesting.

The Brant Lake Association's Scout Program has labeled its shoreline into 15 sections starting in the south and going in a clockwise direction up the west shore and down the east shore of the lake. The site designations noted in this report reflects both the assigned BLA section locations and the site specific number assigned by AIM.

Over 79% of all the milfoil plants removed from Brant Lake during 2016 were taken from just six sites included within sections 6 through 10, in the far northern end of the lake; over 291 bags of milfoil were removed from the northern third of the lake. A single site, site 47, located in BLA section 8 had 90 bags of milfoil removed over three harvest periods, approximately 25% of the total milfoil harvest for the season; section 6, sites 60,61 and 62 yielded 42.5 bags, 11.6% of the total harvest.

The southern 2/3 of the lake accounted for just 15.7% (57.3 bags) of all harvested material. Just four of the 29 harvested sites (2,11,17 and 81) in the remaining 2/3's of the lake account for 32 of the 57 bags of milfoil.

Brant Lake's littoral zone encompasses approximately 48% of its total area, making management for aquatic invasive plants very time consuming and logistically difficult. At the request of Brant Lake Association and AIM LLC, an additional two weeks of survey and harvesting was proposed and accepted by all parties concerned. No *Potamogeton crispus* (curly-leaf pondweed) was noted or removed during the 2016 harvest period.

Weekly harvesting totals for *M. spicatum* (Eurasian Watermilfoil) by AIM, LLC in Brant Lake during 2016 are as follows:

Harvest Periods:

1.	120 man/hours	17.5 bags	437.5 pounds or	3.7 pounds/hr
2.	120 man/hours	17.0 bags	425.0 pounds or	3.5 pounds/hr
3.	120 man/hours	38.0 bags	950.0 pounds or	7.9 pounds/hr
4.	120 man/hours	89.75 bags	2,243.8 pounds or	18.7 pounds/hr
5.	120 man/hours	43.5 bags	1,087.5 pounds or	9.1 pounds/hr
6.	120 man/hours	89.0 bags	2,225.0 pounds or	18.5 pounds/hr
7.	120 man/hours	71.0 bags	1,775.0 pounds or	14.8 pounds/hr
2016 Totals:		840 man/hours	365.8 bags	9,143.8 pounds or 10.9 pounds/hr
2015 Totals:		720 man/hours	244 bags	6,100.0 pounds or 8.5 pounds/hr
2014 Totals:		400 man/hours	191.8 bags	4,794.0 pounds or 12.0 pounds/hr

Copies of the weekly work summaries and the harvesting location maps will be included with the 2016 annual report.

2017 Aquatic Plant Survey

The point intercept rake toss survey method will be employed on Brant Lake during the 2017 season. The original survey plan was for a 10 transect diver swimover survey was to be completed during the 2016 season by employees of the WCSWCD. This method is no longer the preferred method of the Adirondack Park Agency; and due to budget constraints for during 2016 harvest season, the plant survey will be carried out by the Darrin Freshwater Institute during the summer of 2017.

I would like to acknowledge the enthusiastic efforts of the Brant Lake Scout Program, Brant Lake Association, A.J. Reyes of SUNY Oneonta and the Town of Horicon for their assistance and guidance with this program.

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