SLAM AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) PROTOCOL

This is the process to be followed by the Weed Watchers or anyone else who finds a possible invasive plant growing in Silver Lake.

Weed Watcher Responsibilities

Step 1: Identify and Photograph the Plant

A. Do your best to **identify the plant** using the NH Aquatic Plant book and/or Google Lens. If you are not able to identify the plant, take a photo (see below) and send to the SLAM Weed Watcher Coordinator (Currently Peg Donahue, 603 867-4347).

B. Photograph the plant – Take a high-resolution photo to highlight the plant's stem, leaves, and any bracts or flowers. Cut a cross section perpendicular to the stem to show the arrangement of leaves. Include a scale in the photos (coin, ruler, etc.). Take one photo in the water (the leaves fan out in the water) and another photo to show the scale only if you can't get a sample without creating any plant debris (see Step 2C below).

C. Send Photo to Weed Watching Coordinator (Peg Donahue 603-867-4347 or peg@donahuesonline.com). If further determination is needed, follow Steps 2 and 3. Also refer to NH DES website for Exotic (Invasive) weeds and animals: https://des.nh.gov/home-and-recreation/boating-and-fishing/invasive-species

Step 2: Document & Mark the Location

A. Obtain the GPS coordinates – Use a smartphone to identify the GPS coordinates for the location. ***On an iPhone***: open the Maps app, press on the blue dot denoting your location, and slide the My Location pop-up screen up to see the GPS coordinates. ***On an Android phone***: open the Google Maps app, click on the blue dot denoting your location and the coordinates will appear on a pop-up screen.

B. **Mark the location –** Drop a brightly colored, weighted, flagged noodle float. If you don't have one in your Weed Watcher kit, contact SLAM's Weed Watcher Coordinator (Peg Donahue, 603 867-4347). A few of these are also stored in the Lake Host building at the boat launch. *Note: a GPS location obtained with your phone may have an accuracy of +/-15-50 ft. which is why a physical marker is critical*.

Step 3: Obtain a Sample

A. **Collect a representative piece** of the aquatic plant (full stem, leaves, flowers, and fruits if available). Be careful not to allow any plant debris to float away; capture everything you cut and remove it from the lake. *Not allowing any debris to float away is very important as it could cause the plant to spread in the lake.*

B. **Wrap the plant** carefully in a moist (not dripping) paper towel.

C. **Seal the specimen** in a sturdy Ziplock freezer bag and label with:

- Name of water body and town
- Date sample was collected
- GPS location where collected
- Program you are part of (e.g. Weed Watcher, Lake Host)
- Your name, phone number, and email
- Any other pertinent information

Please be sure to include all of the information above as it will help NH DES to identify the location for the plant as well as how to contact you once the specimen is identified.

D. **Provide the specimen to SLAM's Weed Watcher Coordinator** (Peg Donahue 603-867-4347 or peg@donahuesonline.com. Contact Peg and drop sample off at the Silver Lake Boat Launch.

E. **Refrigerate the Sample** if you are not able to provide it to Peg or another designated SLAM contact within a few hours.

SLAM Board/Weed Watcher Coordinator Responsibilities

Step 4: Notify SLAM Leadership

Dave Scarborough – President
Cell: 541 490-1280
E-mail: dwscarborough@gmail.com

Paul Littlefield – Lake Host Coordinator
Cell: (603) 498-7082
E-mail: cpcglittlefield@gmail.com

Step 5: Contact NH Department of Environmental Services

A. Notify **Georgia Bunnell** of NH DES by email with the AIS location and photos for her to identify**: Georgia.E.Bunnell@des.nh.gov** (cell: **603-271-2248**).

B. If Georgia requests samples, deliver, or mail the specimen(s) immediately to:
Georgia Bunnell
Exotic Species Program NH DES
29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301

Note: Please do not mail specimens on Thursdays or Fridays as they will decay quickly in the mail. If you collect a specimen late in the week, please refrigerate or keep on ice until you can mail it.

C. If Georgia determines that the specimen is invasive, she will perform an on-site inspection. She will confirm with SLAM her findings and strategies for remediation as appropriate.

Step 6: Notify Cliff Cabral

A. Once an AIS is confirmed, **notify Cliff Cabral**, owner of New England Milfoil: nemilfoil@gmail.com; cell **603-387-2425**.

Cliff will dive and determine the wider extent of the plant and will help us to remark this area, as necessary, with additional buoys to restrict any boat activity and allow for unhindered investigation.

NOTE: Georgia may be able to provide NHDES buoys that she uses during AIS harvesting.

Step 7: Notify Madison Selectmen

Website: https://www.madison-nh.org Phone: (603) 367-4332

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