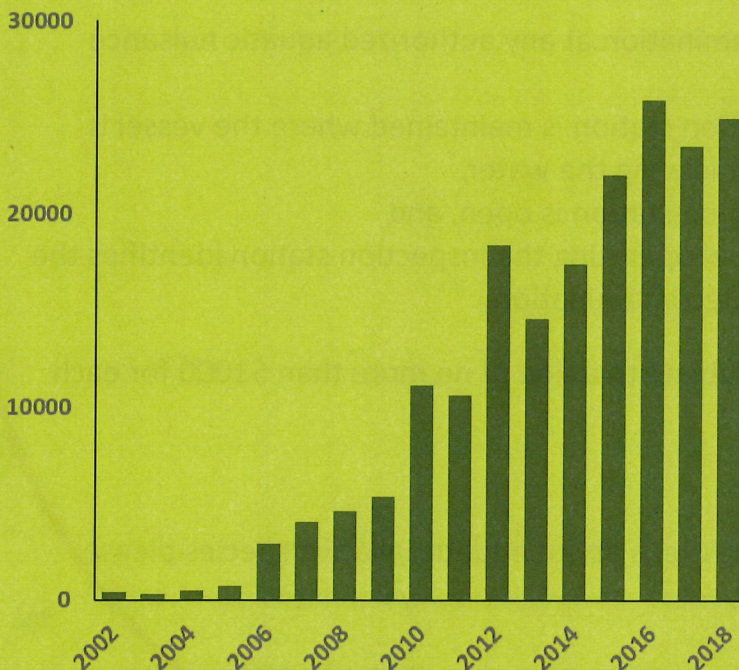


# AQUATIC NUISANCE CONTROL



The goal of Aquatic Nuisance Control is to prevent the impacts of nuisance (primarily non-native) aquatic plant and animal species.

Under Chapter 50 of Title 10, §1454, the transport of aquatic plants or nuisance species to or from any Vermont water is prohibited. Boaters are required to visually inspect their vessel, as well as decontaminate it if a boat wash station is available. Drain plugs, bailers, and bilge areas are required to be drained prior to leaving the lake. Public Access Greeters stationed at public boat launches provide courtesy vessel inspections as well as educate visitors about aquatic invasive species.



Number of watercraft inspected by Public Access Greeters per year since 2002

## 187,466

Number of watercraft inspected by the Public Access Greeter Program since 2002



## 5,846

Number of instances in which plant or animal material was found during these inspections



*Presented to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy by Perry Thomas, Lakes Program Manager, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, April 12, 2019.*



# Aquatic Invasive Species Transport Law in Vermont – Act 67

In 2017, the Vermont Legislature enacted new legislation regarding aquatic nuisance control. Act 67 adds four animals to the species list of which transport is restricted, and requires boat operators to visually inspect their own vessels and remove drain plugs while transporting a vessel.

**The transport of ANY aquatic plant or plant parts is prohibited in the state of Vermont.** The following animals are also prohibited to transport:

- ❖ **Zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*)**
- ❖ **Quagga mussel (*Dreissena bugensis*)**

**Act 67 additions:**

- ❖ **Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*)**
- ❖ **Fishhook waterflea (*Cercopagis pengoi*)**
- ❖ **Rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*)**
- ❖ **Spiny waterflea (*Bythotrephes longimanus*)**



Act 67 requires any person transporting a vessel to or from a body of water to **visually inspect** the vessel, the transport vehicle, trailer, and other equipment used, and **remove** any aquatic plants, aquatic plant parts, and other aquatic nuisance species. The act also requires **removal of drain plugs**, bailers, valves, and all other devices designed to control the drainage of water from vessel while transporting it. A person is not required to drain: (i) baitboxes when authorized to transport bait away from a water; or (ii) vehicles and trailers specifically designed and used for water hauling. All draining of contained water must occur in a manner that avoids discharge into a water of the State.

A vessel must undergo inspection and decontamination at any authorized aquatic nuisance species inspection stations if:

- ❖ the inspection station is maintained where the vessel is entering or leaving the water,
- ❖ the inspection station is open, and
- ❖ an individual operating the inspection station identifies the vessel for decontamination.

Violators are subject to a fine of no more than \$1000 for each violation.



- ❖ For any questions about aquatic invasive species please contact: