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**A Best Tech Approach to Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species**  
*NH LAKES deploys its waterless boat cleaning station at boat ramps throughout the state*

Concord, N.H., June 11, 2020 – With boating season in full swing, NH LAKES is ramping up its efforts to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Aquatic invasive species have already infested approximately 80 of New Hampshire’s 1,000 lakes, and NH LAKES is committed to working with boaters to stop the further spread. In addition to deploying 700 Lake Host courtesy boat inspectors at boat ramps throughout the state, NH LAKES is demonstrating a “Best Tech” approach this summer by deploying its mobile, solar powered, waterless watercraft cleaning unit at boat ramps around the state.

Invasive plants and animals degrade the health of our lakes and make them dangerous to recreate in. They are difficult and expensive to manage, and almost impossible to get rid of once firmly established in a waterbody. The main way they spread from waterbody to waterbody is by hitching a ride on boats, trailers, and gear that have not been properly cleaned, drained, and dried between uses.

Thanks to the efforts of Lake Hosts, the rate of invasive plant spread between waterbodies in New Hampshire has decreased over the past decade. However, the spread of invasive animals, particularly the Asian clam and the Chinese Mystery Snail, has been on the rise. The main way invasive animals spread is by hitchhiking while in their microscopic larval form trapped in drops of water in motors, bilges, ballast tanks and bags, and other compartments that hold water. It is difficult for Lake Hosts and boaters to remove all standing water without the use special tools.

“More needs to be done to help boaters prevent the spread of invasive species, particularly invasive animals, and our watercraft cleaning unit is being deployed to help,” explains Tom O’Brien, NH LAKES President. “Our CD3 unit—which stands for clean, drain, dry, and dispose—includes a high-pressure blower, a scrub brush, long-handled pickers, and a vacuum hose to suck up any water that hasn’t already drained out. It is easy and free to use any time of day—it even has outdoor lights. And, it only takes about five minutes per boat.”

The current CD3 deployment schedule can be found on the NH LAKES website calendar at [nhlakes.org/calendar](http://nhlakes.org/calendar). Upcoming deployments include Webster Lake in Franklin, Conway Lake in Conway, Silver Lake in Madison, Lake Francis in Pittsburg, Lake Sunapee in Newbury, and Robinson Pond in Hudson. More stops will be added along the way. To find out more about the CD3 unit and NH LAKES’ Best Tech Program, visit [nhlakes.org/ais-best-tech](http://nhlakes.org/ais-best-tech).

Established in 1992, the mission of NH LAKES, a statewide, member supported nonprofit organization, is to ensure that New Hampshire’s 1,000 lakes are clean and healthy, now and in the future. To achieve its mission, NH LAKES works with partners, promotes clean water policies and responsible use, and inspires the public to care for our lakes. For more information, visit [nhlakes.org](http://nhlakes.org), email [info@nhlakes.org](mailto:info@nhlakes.org), or call 603.226.0299

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Photos



Photo 1: The NH LAKES waterless watercraft cleaning unit at the Manchester Water Works at Lake Massabesic in late-May.