

Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force



Steering Committee

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

FUND for Lake George

Lake Champlain Basin Program

Lake George Association

Lake George Watershed Coalition/
NYS Department of State

NYS Adirondack Park Agency

NYS Department of Environmental
Conservation

NYS Lake George Park Commission

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University of California Davis Tahoe
Environmental Research Center

University of Nevada Reno

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NEWS RELEASE

Asian Clam 2012 Fall Treatment Report Released: Benthic barrier mats in place over the winter to smother Asian clams

For more information see media contacts below.

February 4, 2013

Lake George, NY - The fall 2012 Asian clam treatment effort covered 6+ acres with benthic barriers weighted down with a substantial amount of rebar and sand bags. Mats were installed in 7 of 8 known locations with no fall treatment at the Norowal Marina site. Fall treatment efforts cost just over \$400,000. A new fall treatment approach will leave the benthic barrier mats in through the winter expanding the treatment time from 45 days to over 150 days. Permits were secured to leave the mats in over the winter with removal scheduled for spring 2013. Once the mats are removed, the treatment areas will be re-surveyed to determine treatment success and these results will help inform the course of action for further 2013 efforts. A complete report on the 2012 fall treatment is available online at www.stoptheasianclam.info

Fall 2012 Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) management was based on the post treatment survey assessments of the spring 2012 treatments at Lake George Village, Boon Bay, Middleworth Bay, Norowal Marina and the four new sites discovered during the Lake George Park Commission organized lake-wide survey in September 2012. The four new sites are Diamond Cove, Paulist Fathers, Shelving Rock Bay, and Lake Forest Acres. The summer 2012 post assessment surveys concluded that there are a total of 27+ acres of Asian clam infestation known in Lake George at 8 different locations throughout the lake. "The LGACRRTF and Lake George partners have continued to work tirelessly on the management of Asian clam in Lake George. The discovery of the four new Asian clam sites in the lake-wide survey

(over)

warrant rapid response management to determine if those small infestations can be eradicated. All efforts to contain the spread of Asian clams from the Lake George Village, Norowal Marina, Middleworth Bay, and Boon Bay will help to prevent its spread to other areas of the Lake Champlain Basin and other lakes in the region,” said Meg Modley from the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Due to limited funding and resources, treatment efforts in the fall of 2012 were site dependent. The new sites are all relatively small (each one less than 1.5 acres in area), so they were all treated first and in their entirety, in an attempt to achieve site specific eradication at these locations. The larger, previously treated sites discovered in 2010 and 2011 were treated on the north and south ends of the sites, in an effort to contain their spread.

Improvements were made in the installation protocol for the fall 2012 treatment in order to improve treatment success. The mats were installed with significantly more weight than previous treatments in an effort to improve the seal and more effectively deprive the clams of oxygen and kill them. 40 pieces of 5’ #5 rebar were installed per mat (7’x50’), weighing close to 210 lbs. In addition, an average of 12-15, 40 lb sandbags were installed per mat, for another 500 lbs of weight. All told, around 700 lbs of weight was installed on each mat to hold it down. Mats were extended onto beach areas with additional weight in an effort to combat wave action along the shoreline. Extra sandbags were also used along bulkheads and sea walls to help seal the mats. Over 1,000 mats were installed over the 7 sites. Rather than being removed after a 45 day treatment period as in the past, the mats will be left in the lake over the winter and will be removed in the spring. Once the mats are removed, divers will survey to determine the success of the treatment. Results will be assessed in order to plan for 2013 management moving forward.

Another key aspect of providing for the best Asian clam control efforts in the fall of 2012 was the increased quality assurance efforts regarding mat installation and maintenance. The Lake George Park Commission tasked its Marine Patrol with conducting post-installation inspection of all matted areas to ensure that the installation protocols were being adhered to. Inspections ceased in mid-December due to extreme cold weather conditions making it unsafe for the diver. A spring 2013 inspection will be conducted (late April/early May), which will outline how well the mats weathered the winter and ice conditions on the lake.

“We are very proud to partner with our fellow organizations and agencies in this tireless effort to manage this particular invasive species for the benefit of Lake George. We are hopeful our continuing improvements in treatment methods will bring increasing success and prevent future spreading. We will continue this fight with our partners with the goal that we will develop strategies that will be successful for the long term protection from invasive species for the Lake and our region,” said Chris Navitsky from the FUND for Lake George and the Lake George Waterkeeper.

Since treatment began in 2011, over \$1.5 million has been spent on controlling Asian clams in Lake George. In the fall of 2012, just over \$465K was raised for fall treatments and just over \$400K was spent on installing the fall treatment. The remainder of the money will be needed for monitoring, maintenance, and removal of the treatment in the spring of 2013. Additional funding will need to be raised for these activities as well. The Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force is grateful for all the support received for the 2012 fall treatment efforts and thanks the following contributors: Warren County, Town of Bolton, Town of Hague, Town of Queensbury, Town of Ticonderoga, Town of Putnam, Essex County, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Lake George Association, FUND for Lake George, Lake George Park Commission, and Lake Champlain Basin Program. “The funds raised around the Lake George region, both public and private, were essential to our work this fall. Warren County, especially, made a commitment above and

beyond any other entity. Future funding streams will determine how successful we can be at keeping these clams from spreading into other critical areas of the lake,” said Walt Lender, Executive Director of the LGA.

The complete 2012 Fall Treatment Report can be found online at www.stoptheasianclam.info

Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force

The Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force is managing the Asian clam control and eradication effort. This Task Force includes a wide variety of organizations, scientists and agencies. The Task Force includes the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Fund for Lake George, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Lake George Association, the NYS Lake George Park Commission, The Nature Conservancy’s Dome Island Committee, Lake George Watershed Coalition/NYS Department of State, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Adirondack Park Agency, RPI’s Darrin Fresh Water Institute , AE Commercial Diving, Aquatic Invasives Management, Bateaux Below, InnerSpace Scientific Diving, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Scientific Diving International, and the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation as well as researchers from Lake Tahoe.

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