



How to search your lake for new aquatic invasive plants

Shoreline Plant Protocol

NYS DEC – NYS FOLA

Janet Andersen

Topics

Where to search

Equipment

How to search

How to photograph plants

What next?



Shoreline Invasive Plant Search

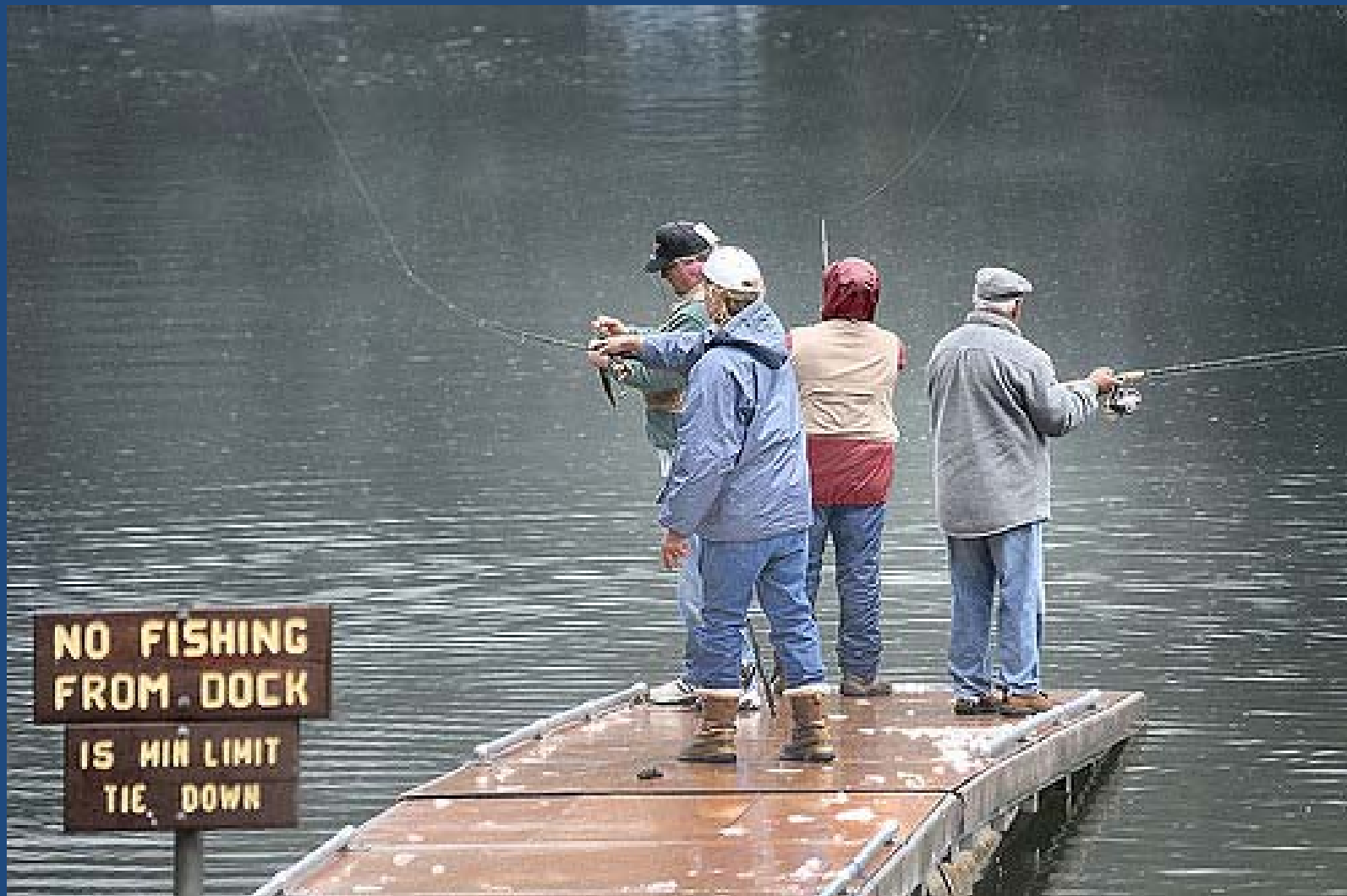
- Not the same as a lake-wide plant survey
- Look for presence or absence
- Feasible for volunteers



Where to search: boat launches



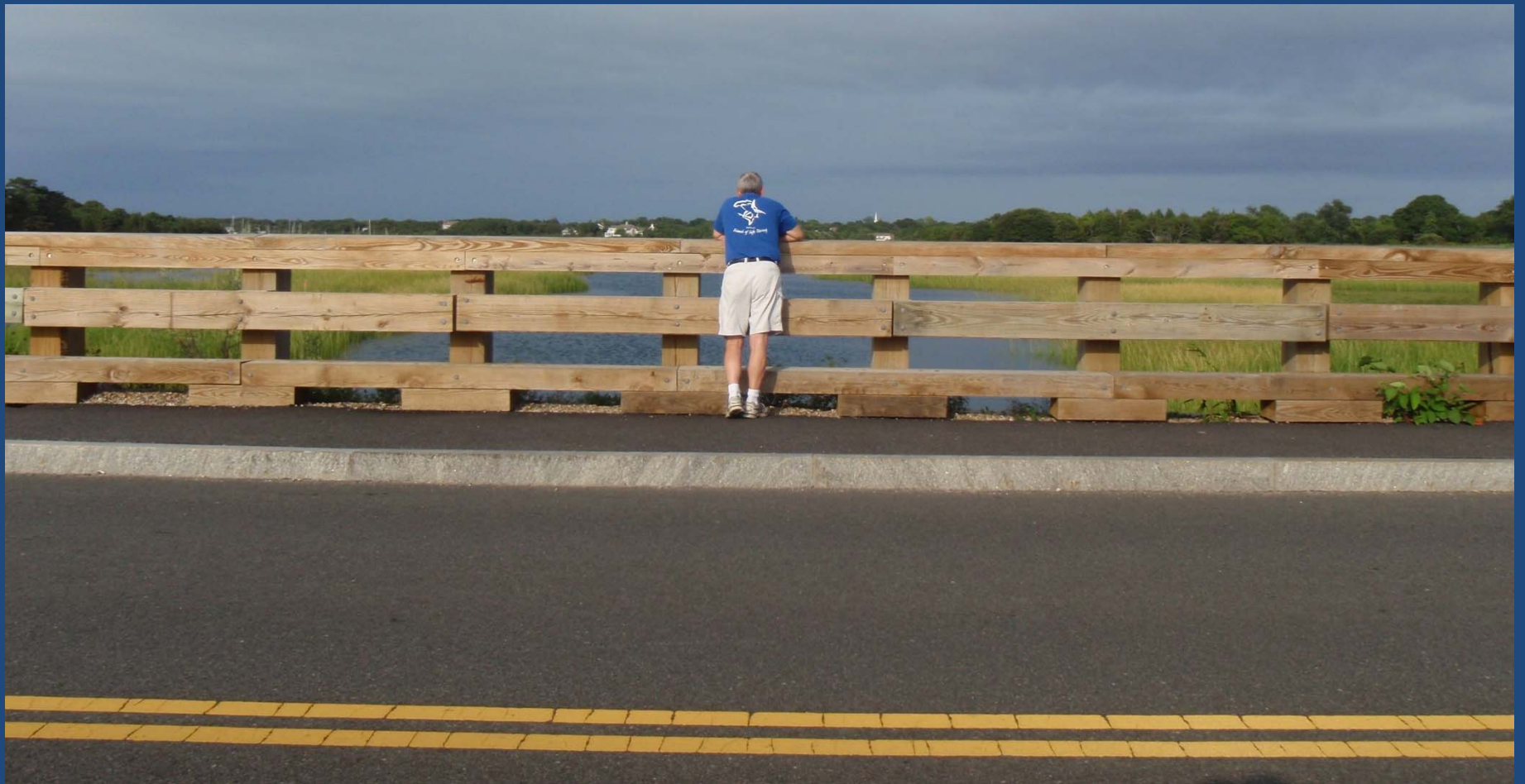
Where to search: public fishing spots



Where to search: public access (Boating, fishing, or aquarium release)



Where to search: bridge or road access
(fishing or aquarium release)



Where to search...

Lake outlet

Stream inlet

Near other
known invasives

Weedbeds



How to search

Have the target plant in mind

Look at photos or drawings

Be alert for anything that looks unusual for your lake



Basic Equipment

Map of the lake (Google is fine)

Pen or pencil or sharpie

Resealable plastic bags

Weeding or cultivating fork

Bucket to carry the gear

Digital camera

Paper towels



How to search

Walk or wade along a section of shoreline or dock

Look for fragments or plants

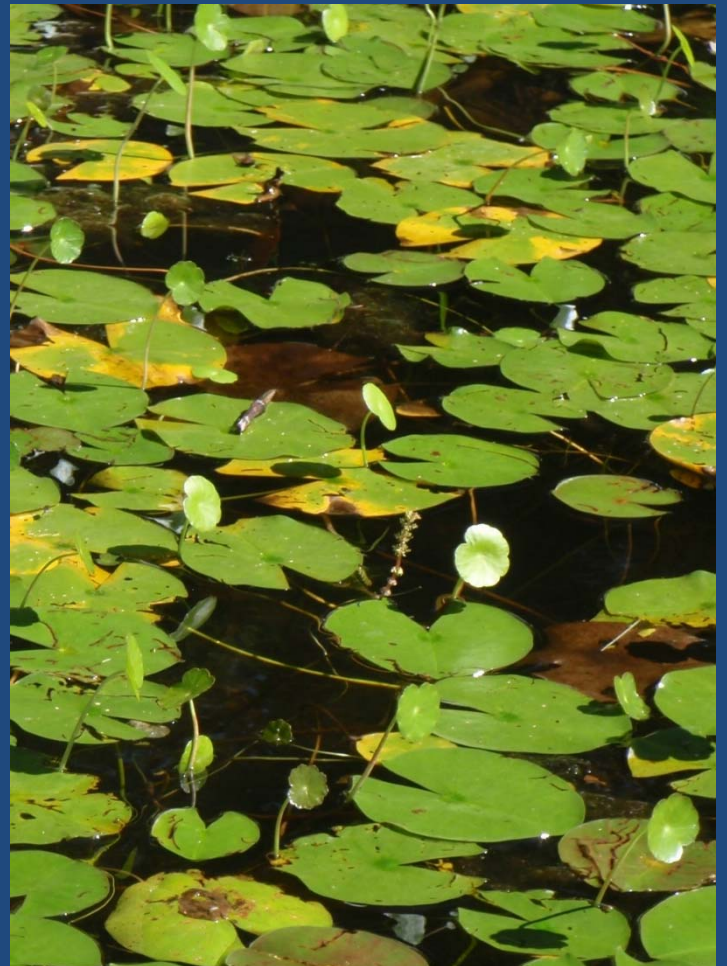
Note anything that looks unusual



How to search

When you find something interesting:

- Collect a sample
- Put sample in a bag with a number on a piece of paper
- Write the number on your map to document where you collected it



Take photos – take lots of photos

Rinse plants thoroughly

If plant is sturdy, take a photo on a white background

Else, take photo in water

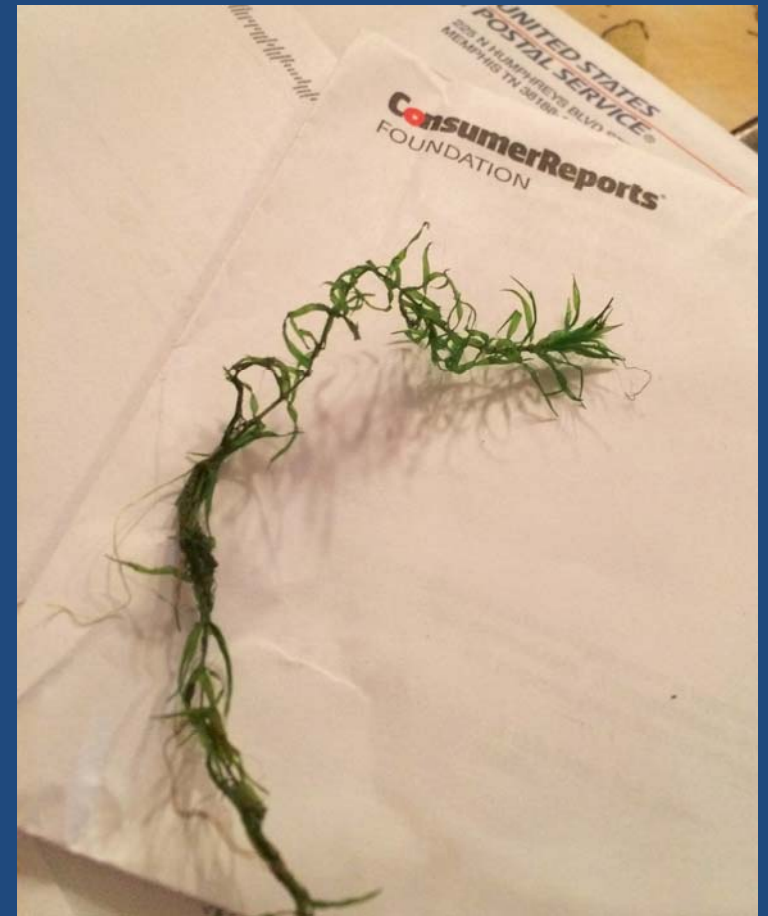
Often diffuse light is better – no flash – but try different approaches



Why take photos in water



EWM in and out of water - C. Doyle, SOL



Key Plants for Search

Water chestnut

Hydrilla

Eurasian watermilfoil

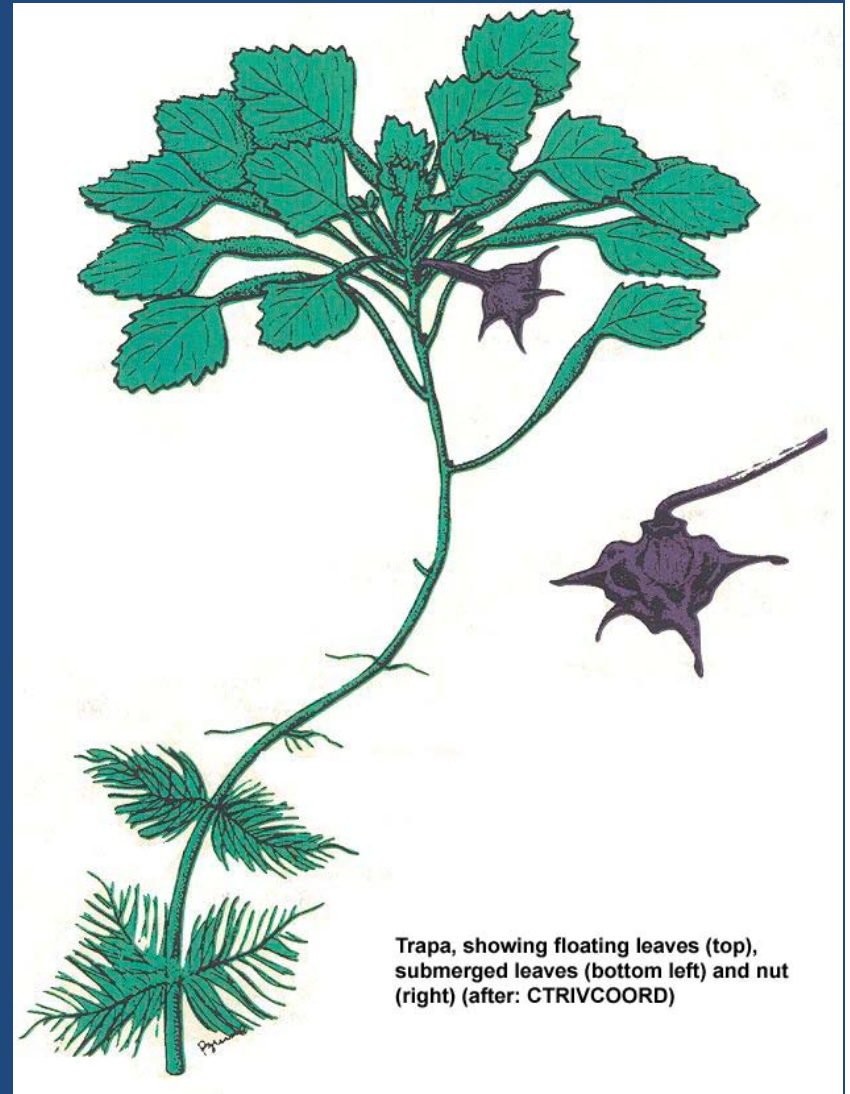


Hydrilla - Jon Reis for NYSFOLA



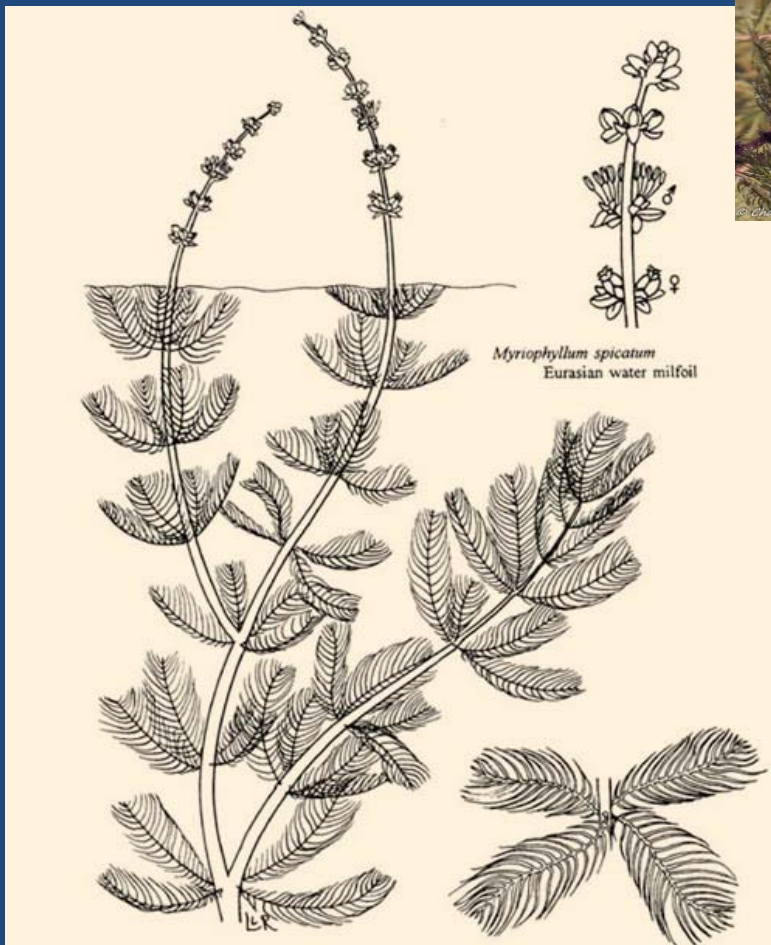
Water Chestnut

Easy to identify – Possible to control



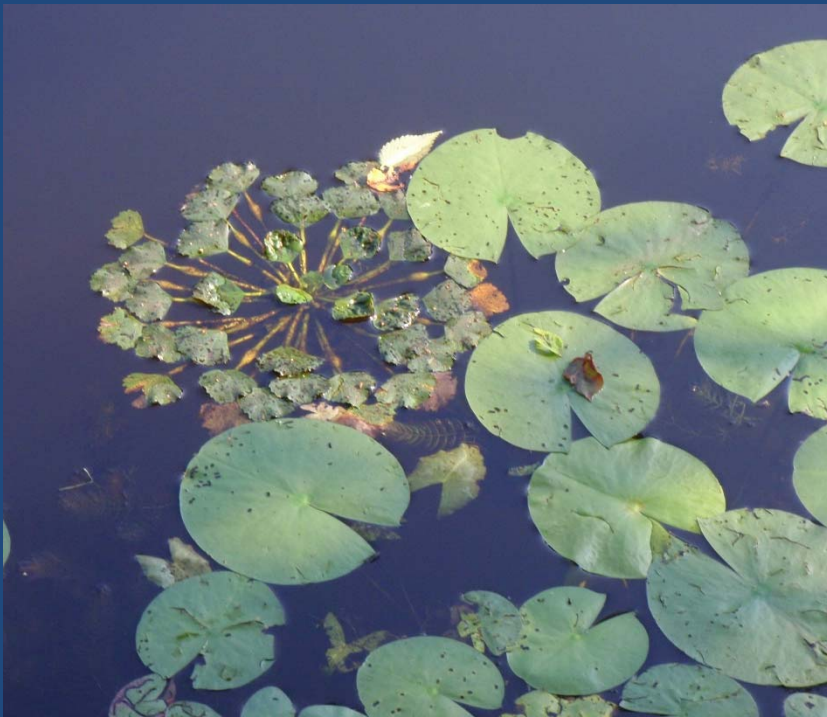
Eurasian watermilfoil

Underreported threat



What next?

- False alarms are great!
- If it's suspicious, confirmation needed
- If it's clear, start work!



Questions?

Protocol & forms are posted on website:
NYSFOLA.org

List of AIS plants by county also on website

Online data entry for CSLAP participants

Thanks to Robynn Shannon, Scott Kishbaugh, Chris Doyle (Solitude / ABI), Maine VLMP & Maine's Courtesy Boat Program, & University of Wisconsin

That's it!

- Thank you for attending
- Please return the feedback form