



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

The Many Facets of AIS Management in New York State

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Key Points

- Shared Goal of Spread Prevention
- Existing Structure
 - Part 576, WISP, CDD requirement
- Understanding Risk
 - Data analysis via ADK/AWI
- Alternate Approaches
 - Effectiveness, Practicality, Compliance/Enforcement



NYS AIS Management Plan (July 2015)

Focus on prevention

- Containing and preventing spread
- Addressing pathways for introduction and spread

https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/nysaisplan15.pdf

Mitigation

Prevention

Early Detection/Rapid
Response

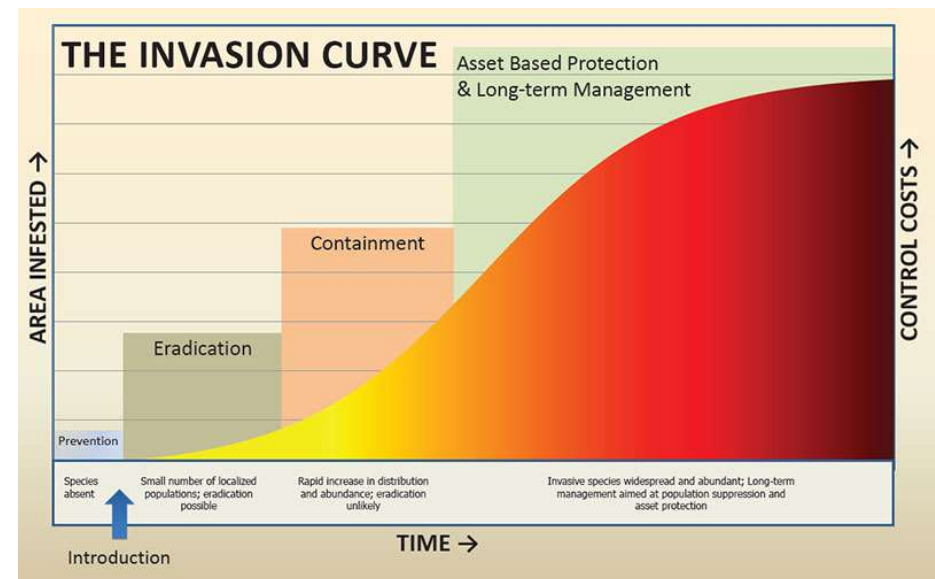
Control/Management

Research



Why an emphasis on prevention?

- Best method for dealing with *any* invasive species
- Avoid ecological impacts
- Reduce economic impacts
- **But not 100% foolproof**



North American Invasive Species Network

Pathways of Introduction

- Pet Trade/Aquaria
- Aquatic Gardens
- Life Releases/Live Markets
- Bait
- Recreational Watercraft



J. Clayton, NYSDEC

Prevention: Regulations

6 NYCRR Part 575 Prohibited
and Regulated Species

Amendment to Article 3 of the
Navigation Law

ENV §Section 11-0507.4

6 NYCRR Part 59.4 (DEC) & 9
NYCRR Part 377.1 (Parks)

Certified Bait

6 NYCRR Part 576

“Reasonable Precautions”



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Prevention: Watercraft Inspection Stewards Program

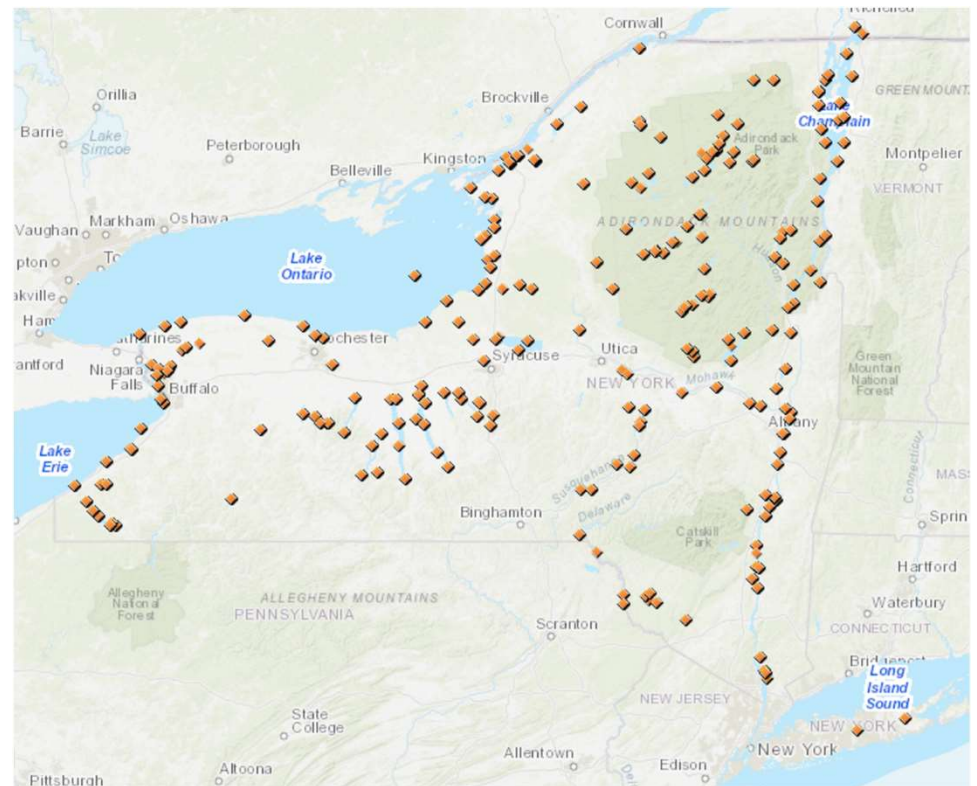
New York State:

200+ locations

>250 stewards

2020:

- 391,807 boats
- 38,456 boaters from different waterbodies
- 31,654 first time interactions
- 19,189 interceptions of AIS
- Boats from 58 states and Canadian provinces



Pragmatic considerations

- More than **7,000** lakes, ponds, rivers and streams in New York State
- Boat steward locations are chosen based on several factors: microscopic AIS, popularity, connectivity
- Decon stations expensive and challenging to place and maintain (site modifications, permits, special training, additional staff, liability issues)

Mission

Behavior Change

Public commitment to clean, drain, and dry your watercraft and equipment even when a steward is not present.

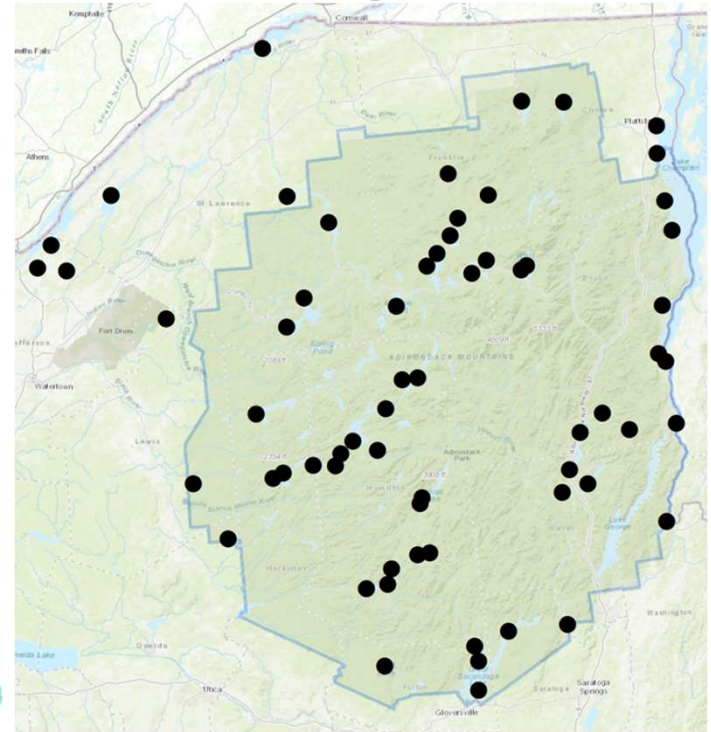
#ProtectYourWaters

#CleanDrainDry



Adirondack Park AIS Prevention Program

- 120 Stewards
- 46 launches (<50%) & 26 decontamination stations
- Memorial Day to Labor Day
- 5 to 7 days/week
- \$2 million per year

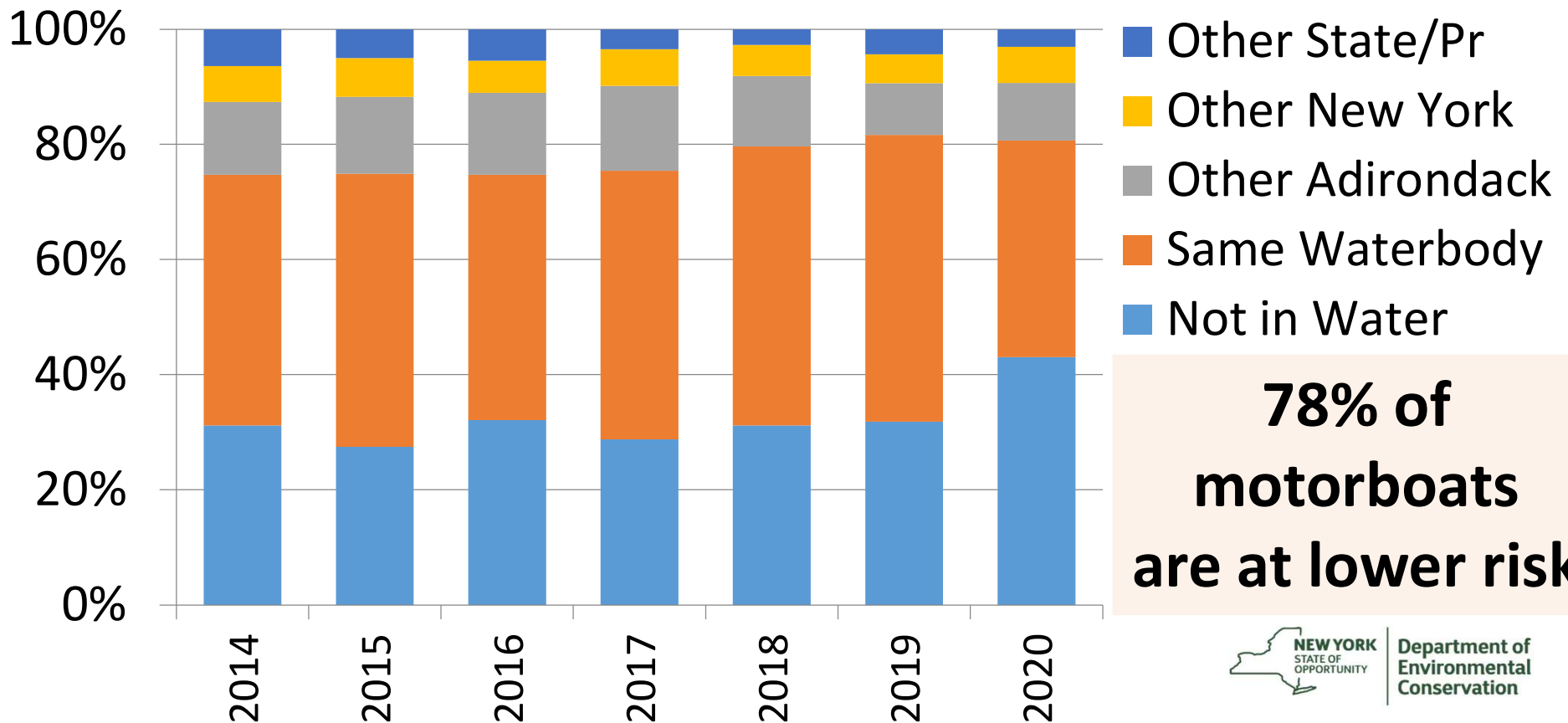


2020 boat counts & inspections

- 105,757 boats counted in 2020
- 97.5% of these boats were inspected
- 0.07% of boaters refused inspection



Where has your boat been in the last 2 weeks?

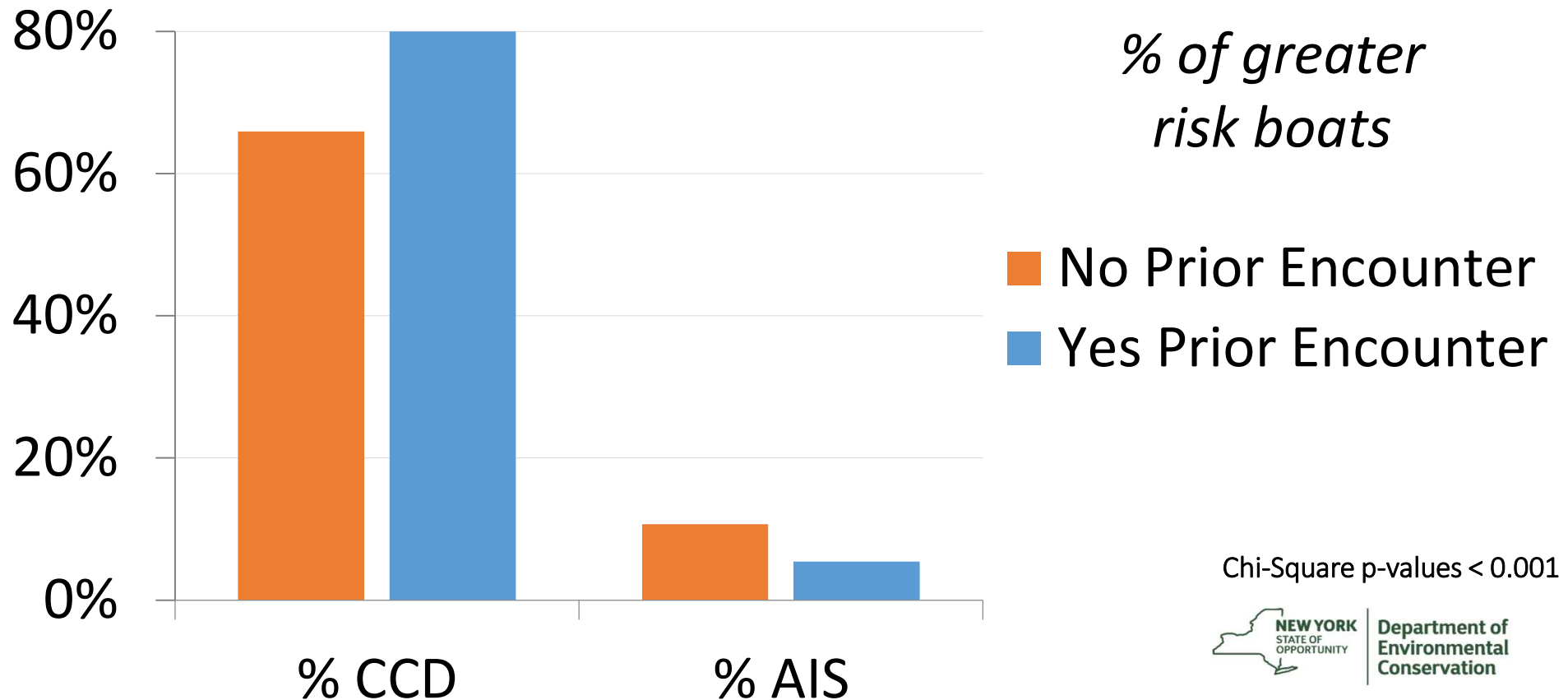


Efficacy of stewards for greater risk boats?



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Steward encounters and AIS prevention






Conclusions

- Boaters are very willing to comply with voluntarily inspections
- Majority of motorboats are low risk (infrequent use or same waterbody)
- For others, stewards enhance adoption of spread prevention strategies



Recommendations

- Consider ways to increase the educational impact of boat stewards  Decrease AIS risk at unstaffed waters
- Finish establishing steward programs across New York & adjacent states  Decrease AIS import to ADKs
- Increase boater awareness of the transport law (part 576)  Increase boater compliance

Thank you!



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