

For Conway Lake's AIS PATROL use only:

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIE (AIS) PROTOCOL

Steps to take if an Invasive Plant, Animal or Cyanobacteria is Found

SHOULD AN AIS PLANT or ANIMAL BE FOUND:

1st step: Document & Mark the Location – Obtain a Sample:

- **Mark the Location**
 - Obtain a GPS location and report the Zone and Grid number. Use compass triangulation with 3 geographic locations if necessary.
 - Mark the location with a brightly colored, weighted (4oz), and flagged noodle float. Flag should read: DO NOT remove, Possible invasive weed. Remember that a GPS location obtained with your phone may have an accuracy of +/- 15-50 ft. so a physical marker is critical.
- **Photograph** the plant - take a high-resolution photo (large format) to highlight the plant's stem, leaves, and any bracts or flowers. Cut a cross section perpendicular to the stem to show the arrangement of leaves. Include a scale in the photos (coin, ruler, etc.).
- **Collect a Sample** – See below to **Steps for AIS Sampling**

2nd step: For AIS verification:

Notify:

- Maria Gross (603-491-3107 - cell; 603-447-6068 - home)
- Don Yurewicz (713-253-1211)

If neither Maria nor Don are reachable, then call either:

- Steve Kafka (617-869-2366)
- Brad Gaudreault (Office: 603-447-6704 – state reason for call)
- Tim Keith (617-285-4945) or Bill Petry (781- 929-2021)

3rd step: Definitive Identification

- Contact **Amy Smagula** of NH DES by Email with the AIS location and photos for her to identify: Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov (cell: **603-419-9325**).
- If Amy requests samples then deliver or mail the specimen(s) immediately to:
Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program NH DES
29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301
Please do not mail specimens on Thursdays or Fridays. Specimens will decay quickly in the mail. If you collect this specimen late in the week, please refrigerate or keep on ice until you can mail it.
- **If she determines that the specimen is invasive, she** will arrive to inspect as soon as she is able. Her reputation to respond is renown to be very quick. She will confirm with the Conway Lake AIS Patrol contact and Cliff Cabral what **kind of AIS** was found. Discussions with strategies for its removal well be discussed among Amy, Cliff, and the CLCA board.

4th step: Notify Cliff Cabral

- Once the AIS is confirmed, notify Cliff Cabral (CLCA employed AIS diver and owner of New England Milfoil: nemilfoil@gmail.com, cell **603-387-2425**).
- Cliff will dive and determine the wider extent of the plant. He will help us to remark this area, as necessary, with additional buoys to restrict any boat activity and allow for unhindered investigation.
- Amy might be able to bring NHDES buoys that she uses during AIS harvesting.

5th step: Notify Conway and Eaton Selectmen

Conway Township Contact Information

Website: <https://conwaynh.org/staff/>

Phone: (603) 447-3811 - Dial 2 Board of Selectmen/Town Manager

Email: conway@conwaynh.org

Eaton Township Contact Information

- **Phone:** (603) 447-2840
- **E-Mail:** selectmen@eatonnh.org

Steps for AIS Sampling of Plants & Animals

1. Collect a representative piece of the aquatic plant (full stem, leaves, flowers, or fruits if available)
2. Wrap the plant neatly in a moist (not dripping) paper towel.
3. Seal the specimen in a sturdy (ex: used for freezing) zip lock bag and label with:
 - Name of waterbody and Town
 - Date sample was collected.
 - Location of collection (GPS would be ideal, photo of shoreline with landmark AND, if possible, leave your weighted noodle)
 - Program you are part of: VLAP, Weed Watcher, Lake Host or other (indicate what)
 - Your name + phone number + email
 - Comments

Please to be sure to include the information above – it will help NH DES to identify a location for the plant as well as how to contact you once the specimen is identified.

If needed, refer to NH DES WEBSITE for Exotic (Invasive) weeds and animals:
<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/exoticspecies/index.htm>

SHOULD ANY FORM OF CYANOBACTERIA BE FOUND

<https://nhlakes.org/wp-content/uploads/Session-I-E-Cyanobacteria-in-NHs-Lakes.pdf>

1st step: Field ID of Suspected Cyanobacteria

- **Cyanobacteria** blooms can occur anywhere on the lake!
 - On beaches
 - At boat launches
 - Along inaccessible shorelines
 - In front of private residences
 - As patches around the lake surface
 - As thick mats
 - Attached to rocks or substrates.
 - Deep within the water column
 - Shoreline accumulations can change rapidly.
 - Weather, wind, and currents may shift accumulations.
 - Water disturbance from boats or other recreational activities can alter the conditions of the reported bloom sighting.
- **Look Alikes:** The green stuff you see floating on the lake might not be cyanobacteria! Here are a few identifiers:
 - If you see leaves or roots, or distinguishable parts, it is likely a tiny (and harmless) aquatic plant like **duckweed**.
 - If it is a stringy, silky substances that can be draped over a stick it is probably **filamentous green algae**.
 - If it is yellow and almost “dusty” in texture, it might act like cyanobacteria, but it may be **tree pollen**.
 - **If you are not sure then follow the protocol shown below.**

2nd step: Document & Mark the Location

- **Mark the Location**
 - Obtain a GPS location and report the Zone and Grid number. Use compass triangulation with 3 geographic locations if necessary.
 - Mark the location with a brightly colored, weighted (4oz), and flagged noodle float.

- **Photograph** what is found - take a high-resolution photo (large format) to highlight the nature of the infestation (color, how extensive it seems, and its physical appearance).

3rd step: Cyanobacteria Notification

First call either: (leave a message and move to the next on this phone tree)

Maria Gross (cell 603-491-3107, home 603-447-6068)
Don Yurewicz (713-253-1211).

If neither Maria nor Don are reachable, then call: (leave a message and move to the next on this phone tree)

- Steve Kafka (617-869-2366)
- Brad Gaudreault (Office: 603-447-6704 – state reason for call)
- Tim Keith (617-285-4945) or Bill Petry (781- 929-2021)

4th step: Call and Email Amanda McQuaid and Copy Amy Smagula

- Call **Amanda McQuaid**, DES Coordinator of the Harmful Algal and Cyanobacterial Bloom Program ...Tel #603-848-8094.
- Email Amanda with photos and GPS location of suspected cyanobacteria. Include your contact information: Amanda.McQuaid@des.nh.gov

5th step: Sample Collection

- As the toxicity of cyanobacteria found is unknown Amanda states that she **does not** want to encourage anyone to collect it. Best to take photos.
- However, if a collection is to be done:
 - Do not use plastic bags.
 - Best to use a high-density plastic bottle (not like a soda bottle, but more like a Nalgene bottle)
 - A well cleaned jar would be good for any short-term transfer if it seals well and will not puncture.

6th step: Cyanobacteria Confirmation

Laboratory microscopic examination is necessary for a definitive identification of cyanobacteria. Take collected samples down to Amanda in Concord:

Watershed Management Bureau
Water Division, NH Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive (P.O. Box 95)
Concord, NH 03302-0095

The entrance that faces the DMV has several black bins out on the sidewalk and they are labeled with “cyanobacteria, blooms, algae.” (If you see the DHHS Public Health Lab drop off location, just drive past that and you will see a drive thru-like roundabout).

7th step: Mark location with buoys and signs – notify Amy Smagula & Cliff Cabral

If Amanda identifies the bacteria as toxic for the public then:

- Immediately notify **Amy Smagula** (NH DES): Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov (cell: **603-419-9325**).
- Amanda will confirm the best way to mark off the area and what signs to use when she arrives. **Note:** cordoning off is not legal unless the NHDES designates a restricted area which is an official designation with State of NH buoys. Amanda, or one of the NHDES biologists, need to site inspect for that to happen.
- Notify the towns of Conway and Eaton:

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