


Adirondack Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Program

Brett Wimsatt, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Director



PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE
**ADIRONDACK
WATERSHED
INSTITUTE**

Our Mission



Protect Clean Water



Promote Healthy Watersheds

Mission Accomplished Through:

Science



Stewardship



Community



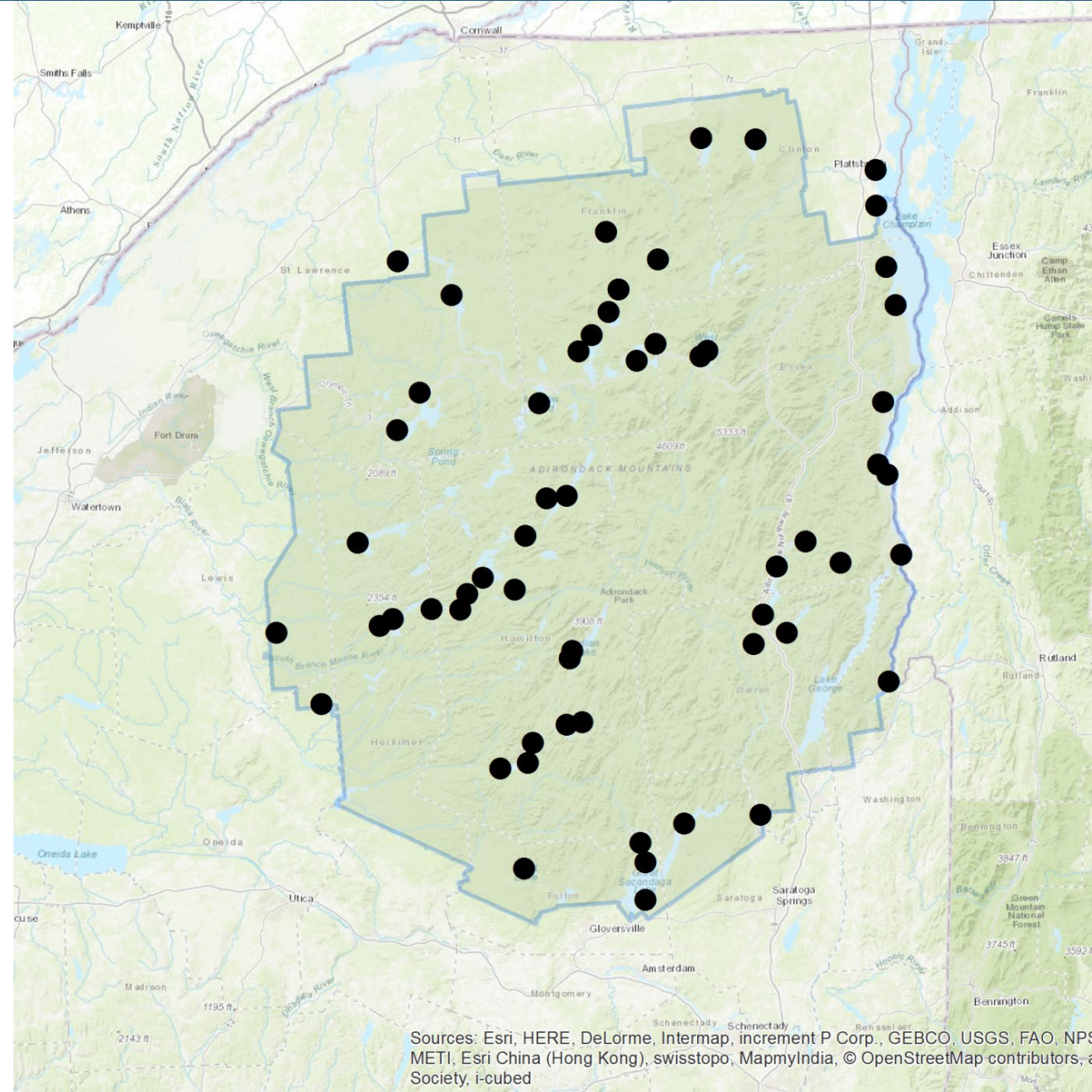
AIS Pressure on Adirondack Waters

- Hundreds of improved boat launch sites
- 70,000 – 120,000 boat inspections each season
- Boats come from other ADK & NY waters, 40 states and 6 Canadian provinces



A Park-Wide AIS Prevention Program

- 115+ seasonal staff
- 60+ launches and decontamination stations
- May – Oct, 7 days a week
- 2023 - 2027 NYS DEC AAISSPP contract



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, Increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, © Society, i-cubed

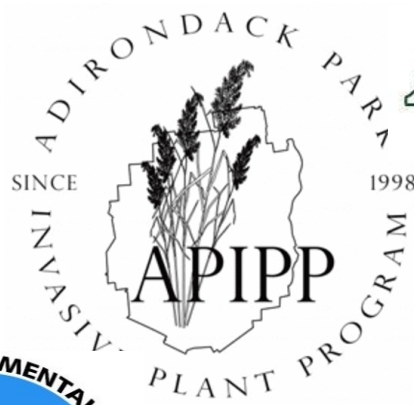


Department of
Environmental
Conservation





The Shore Owners' Association of Lake Placid



Adirondack Park Agency



INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT ADIRONDAKS



TUPPER LAKE SHORE OWNERS ASSOCIATION



Lake Pleasant - Sacandaga Association



Lake George Association



Upper Saranac Foundation





Water chestnut



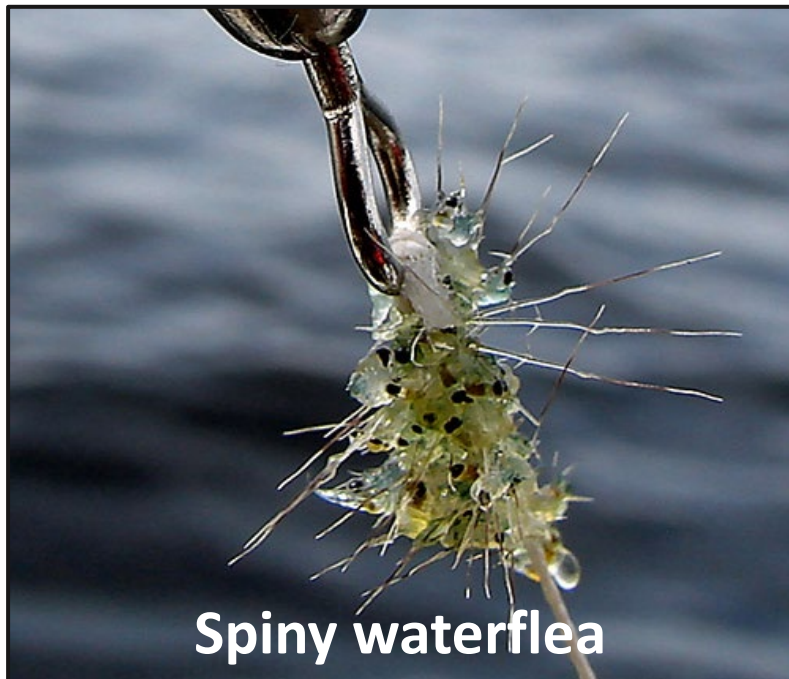
Eurasian watermilfoil



Curlyleaf pondweed



Zebra mussel



Spiny waterflea

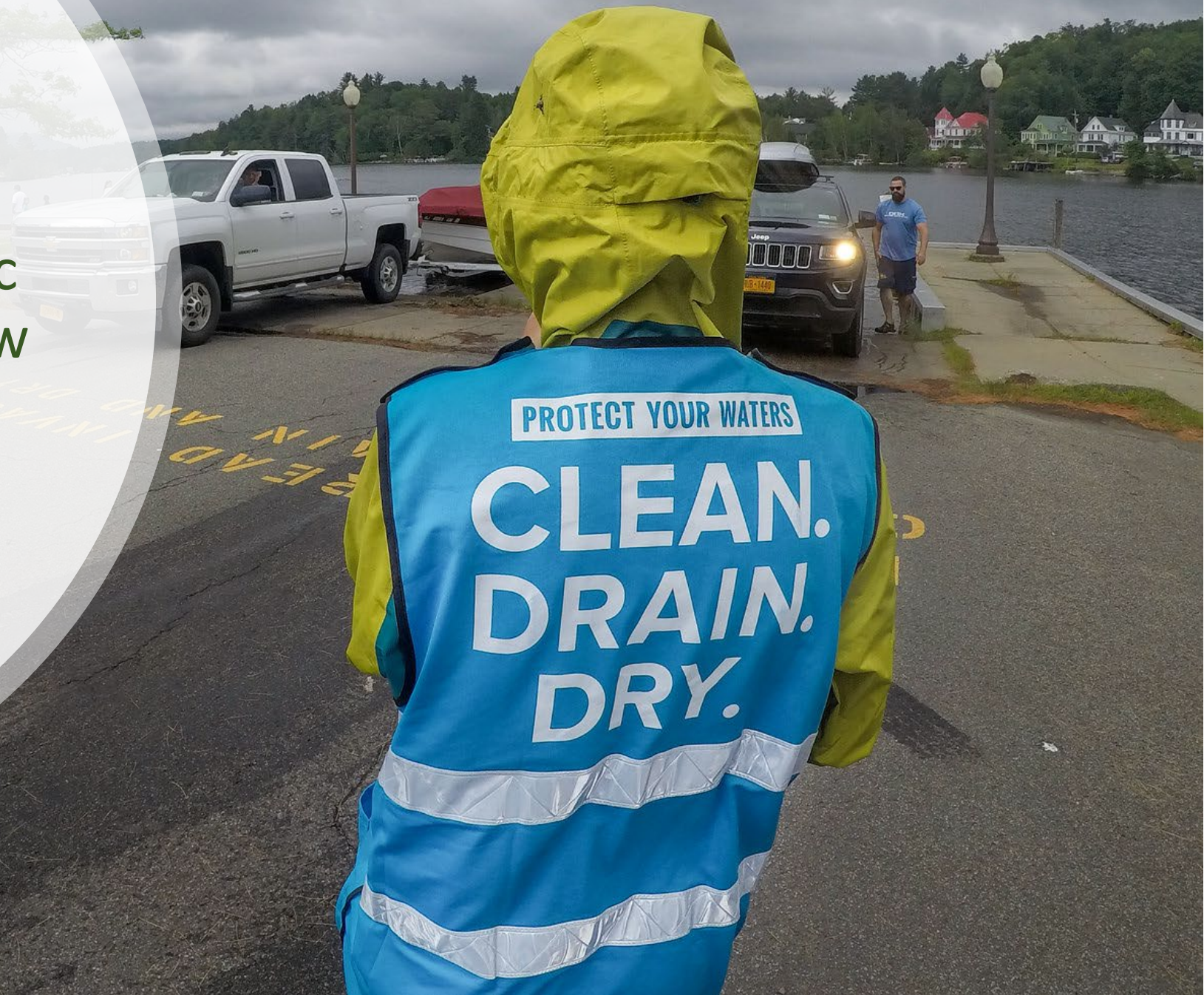


Asian clam

Watercraft Inspection Steward

Prevent the spread and establishment of aquatic invasive species into new waters.

1. Inspection
2. Education
3. Decontamination



Stewardship - Inspection



Stewardship - Education



Stewardship – Watercraft Decontamination



*Do we need stewards?
AND
Is this working?*

PROTECT YOUR WATERS
CLEAN.
DRAIN.
DRY.

Is it worth inspecting boats?

***YES - We are making
a difference!***

Species Transport Rate: 2018 to 2023

Aquatic Invasive Species

3.7% to **1.5%**

Native Species

9.4% to **5.7%**



THE INVASION CURVE

AREA INFESTED →

CONTROL COSTS →

Prevention

Eradication

Containment

Asset Based Protection
& Long-term Management

Species
absent

Small number of localized
populations; eradication
possible

Rapid increase in distribution
and abundance; eradication
unlikely

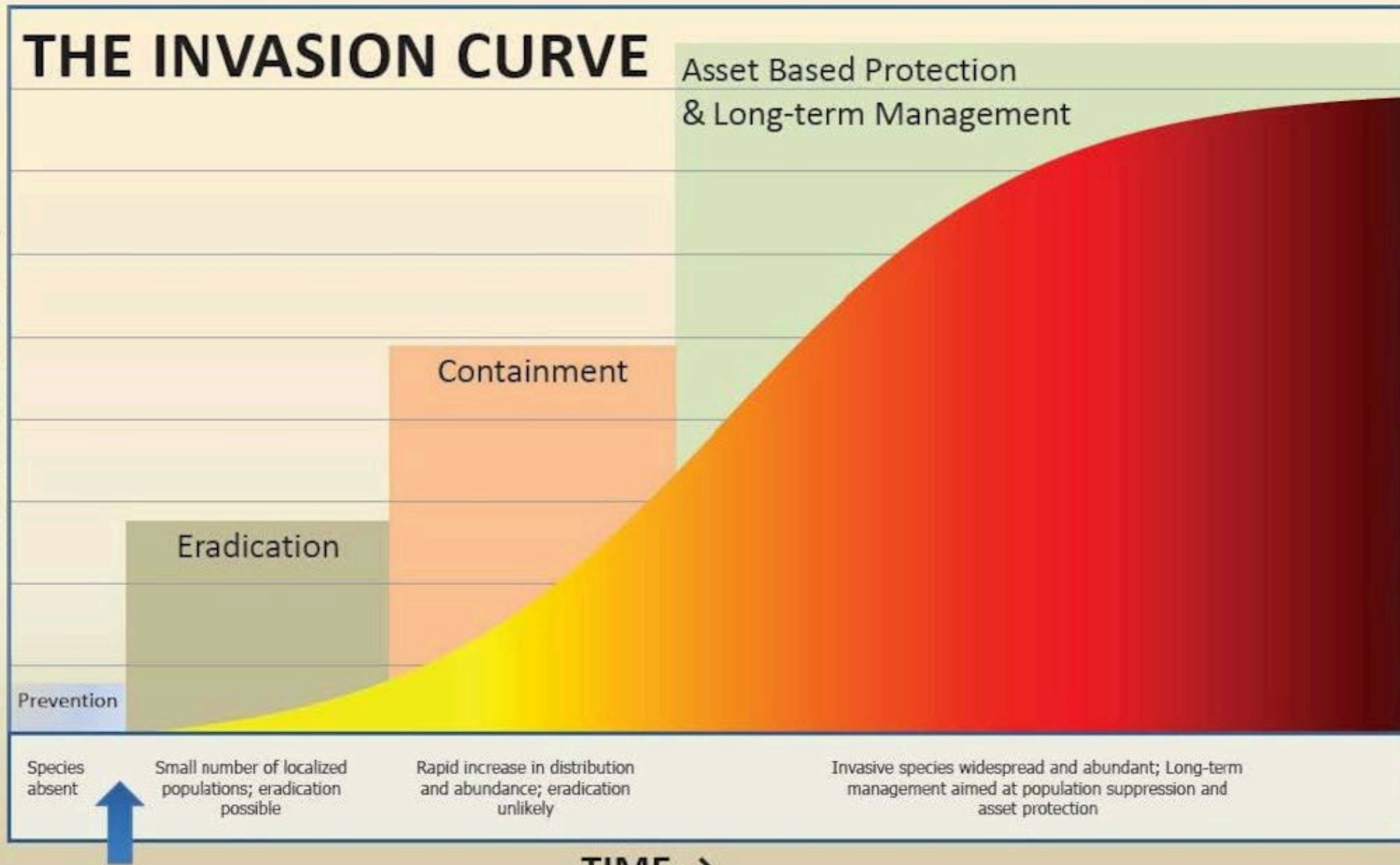
Invasive species widespread and abundant; Long-term
management aimed at population suppression and
asset protection

Introduction

TIME →

(The Invasion Curve, US Army Corps of Engineers, 2023)

<https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Media/Images/igphoto/2000809451/>



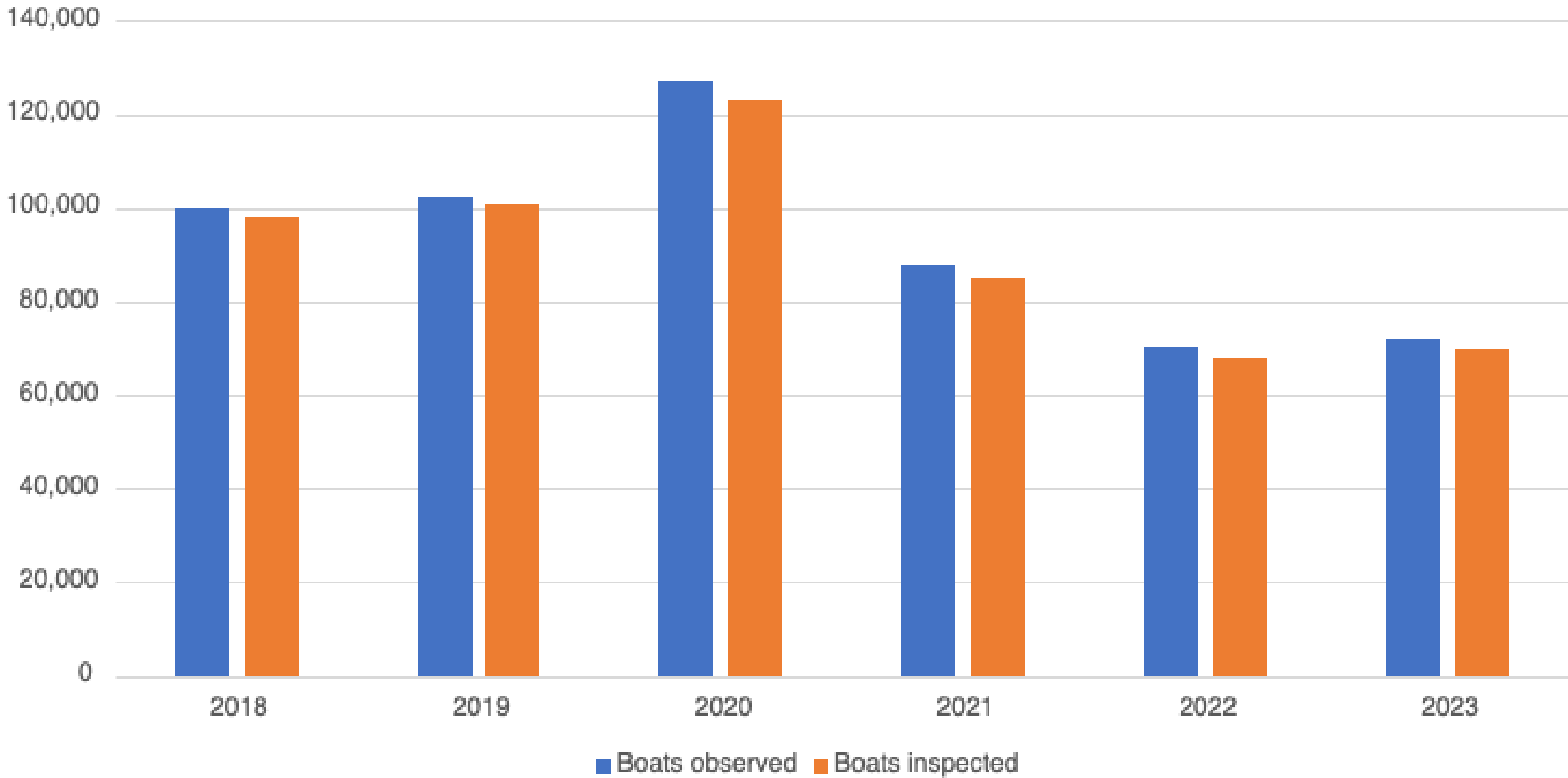
2023 Highlights

- 107 stewards hired
- 69,971 boats inspected
- 138,813 boaters engaged
- 1.5% of boats transported AIS
- 3,210 boat decontaminations
- 4.6% of boats decontaminated
- 97.2% of boats inspected

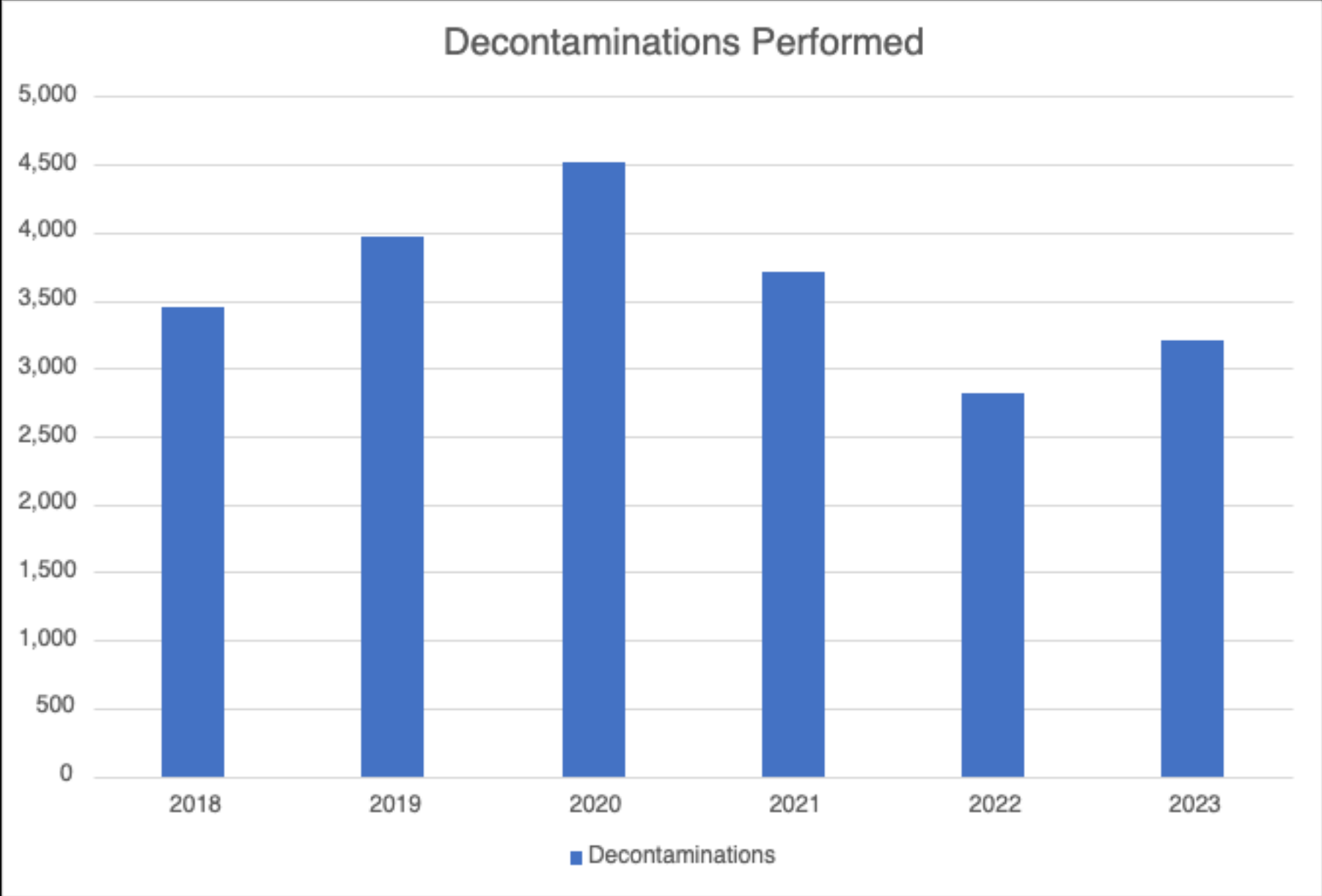


2023 Results

Total boats observed at the launch compared to inspections completed

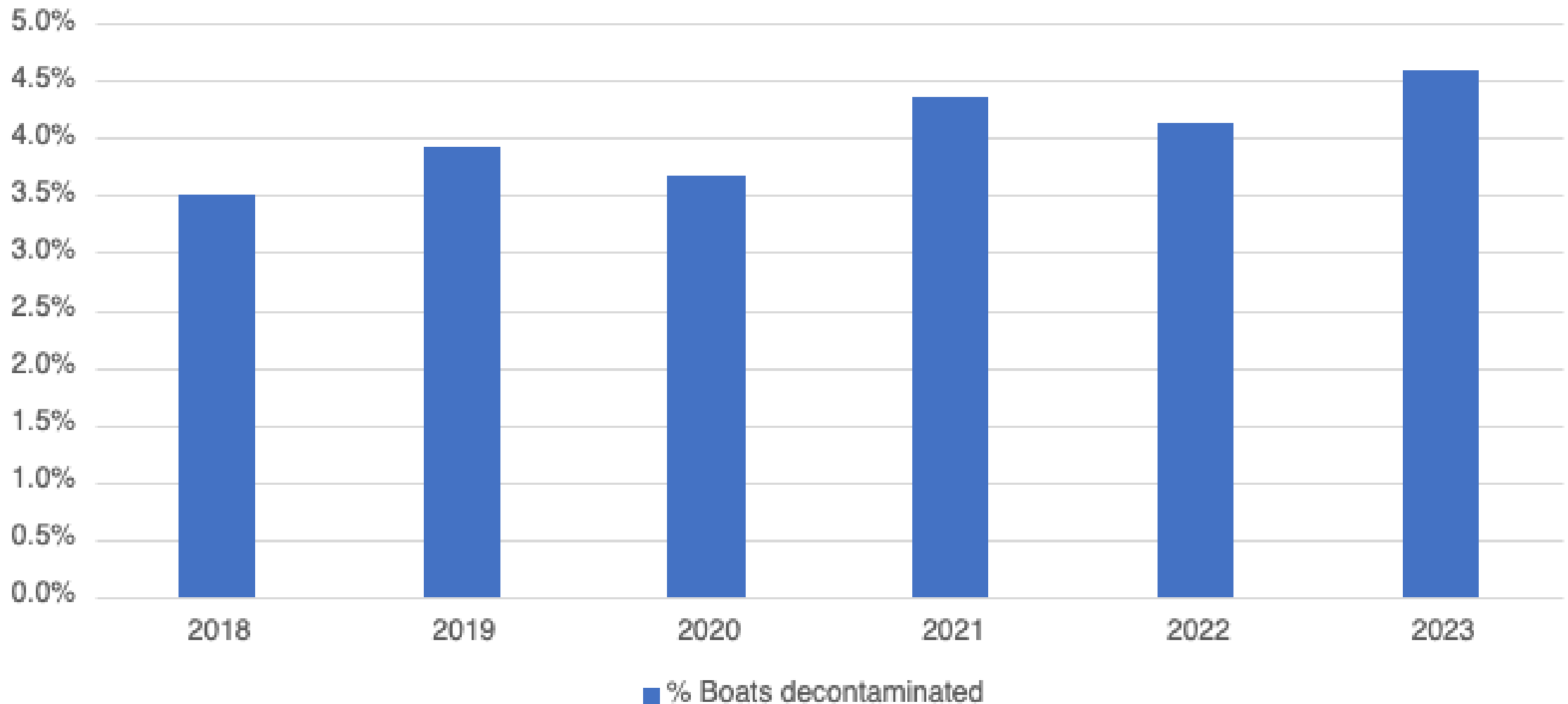


2023 Results



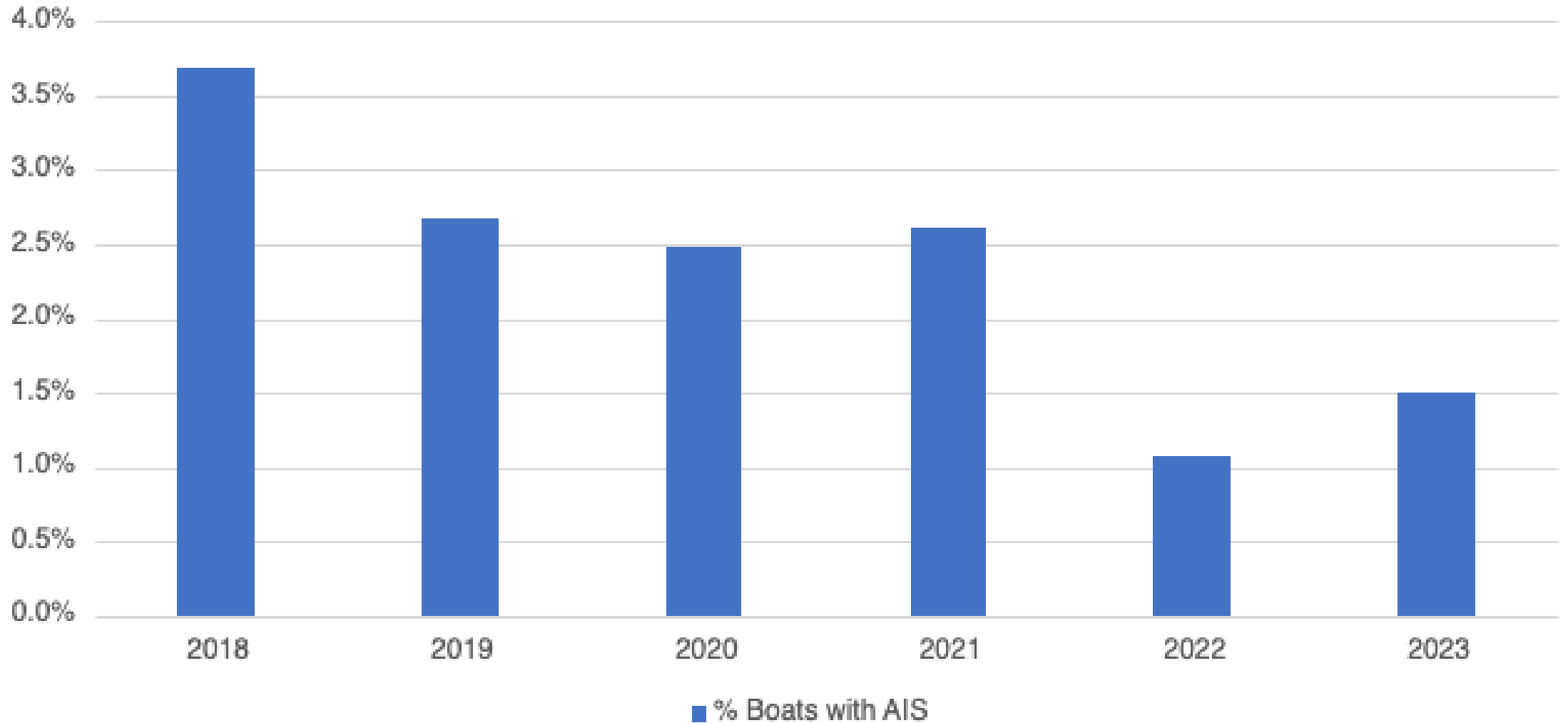
2023 Results

Percent of inspected boats that received decontamination



2023 Results

Percent of boats transporting aquatic invasive species



Our Current Challenges



Hiring 115+ seasonal staff



Lack of affordable housing



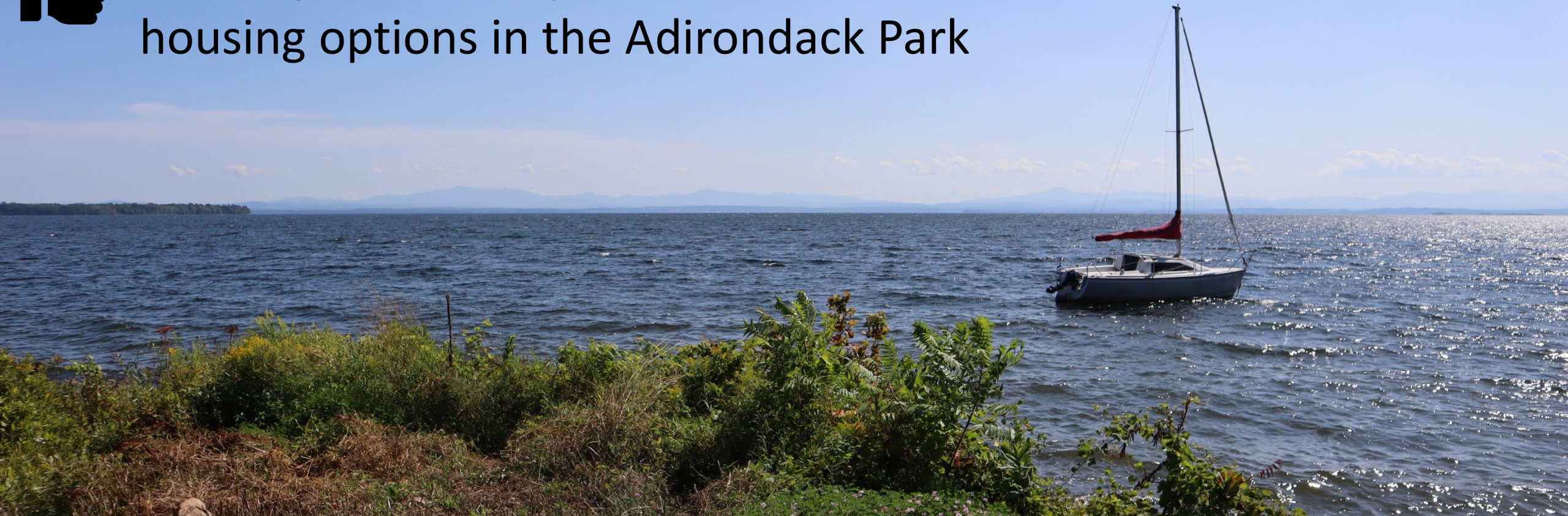
Recommendations



Staffing – Assistance from municipalities, lake associations and other partners to help recruit stewards



Housing – NYS and private entities invest in affordable seasonal housing options in the Adirondack Park



2024 – Hiring Update and Goals

- 88 of 115 staff hired, 20 applications in process
- 1. Elevate boater education = increased clean, drain, dry compliance
- 2. Increase watercraft decontamination station usage
- 3. Provide maximum launch coverage from May 24 to September 2



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Thank You
Questions?