



**Adirondack  
Park Agency**

# **Watercraft Decontamination Facilities**

**Amendment to the 1990 Campgrounds  
& Day Use Areas Generic UMP/GEIS**

**June 9, 2022**

# Presentation Outline

- Planning for campgrounds & day use areas
- Purpose for amendment
- Recap of proposed amendment
- Summary of public comments
- SLMP conformance
- Staff recommendation
- Questions?

# Campgrounds & Day Use Areas

- Volume I – generic plan, contains overview, environmental setting, goals, policy, mgmt. criteria; universal to all facilities
- Volume II – site specific document, contains inventory of physical, biological and human made features as well as specific mgmt. objectives
- Volume III – reference and support data, appendix to Volumes I & II
- ***The current amendment is for Volume I***

# Purpose – AIS Spread Prevention

- 110 ADK waters known to have AIS (data from APIPP)
- 100+ NYS DEC boat launches
- 30,000+ motorboats launched every year
- Boats coming from other ADK & NY waters, 40 states and 6 provinces (2,700+ other waters) (data from AWI)
- Research shows that recreational watercraft are the most significant vector for AIS spread in the United States

# Boats Decontaminated per Year

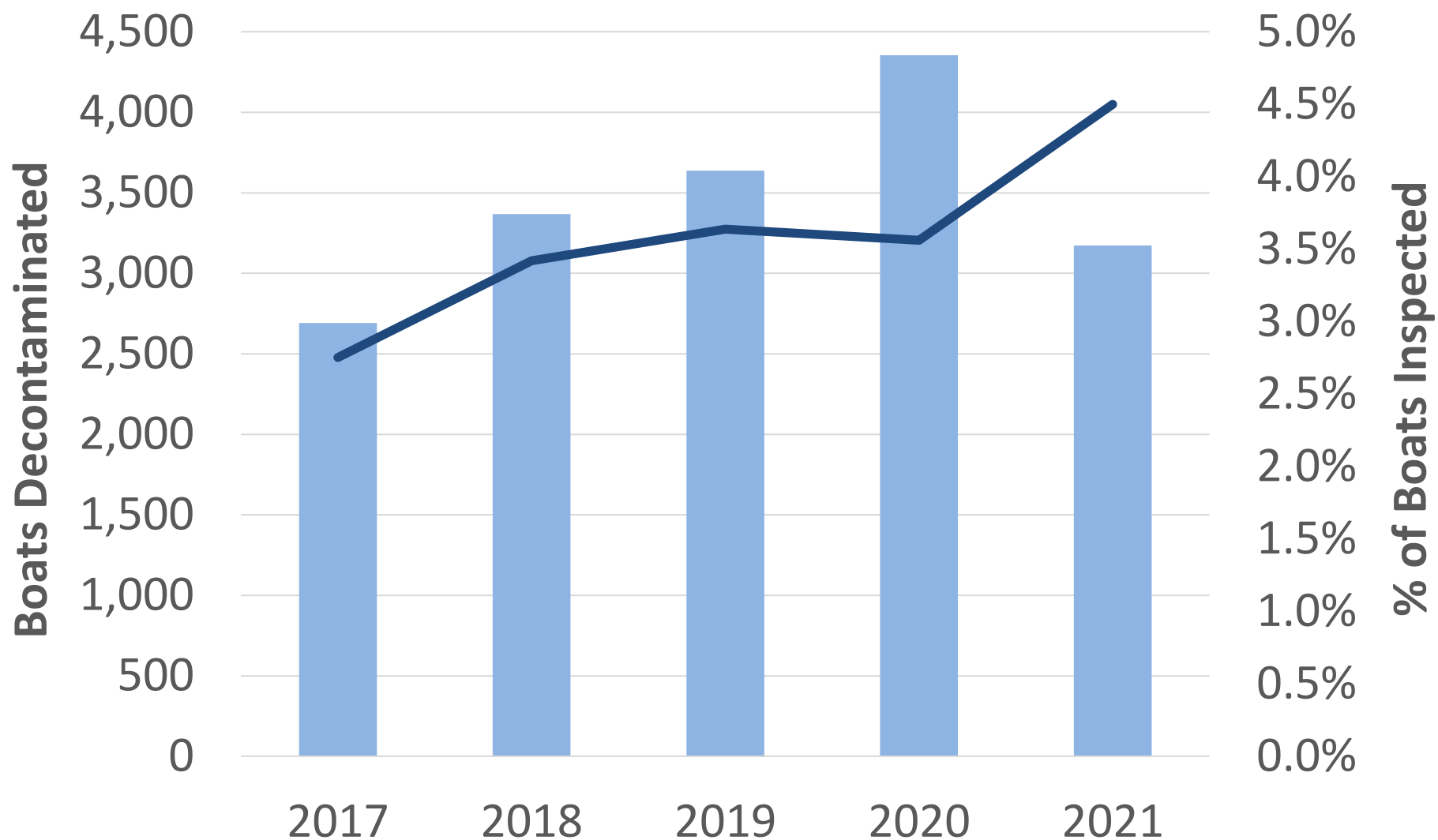


Figure from D. Kelting, Adirondack Watershed Institute

# Amendment for Watercraft Decon Facilities

- The proposed final amendment allows for permanent placement of watercraft decontamination (decon) facilities, including storage buildings, water collection pads, and vehicle access.
- Decon units are used to decrease the risk of aquatic invasive species spread via recreational watercraft.
- Watercraft inspection stewards provide education, outreach, inspections and boat washing with decon units.
- Decon units are currently housed in temporary sheds. Moving the sheds results in damage, is logistically difficult and time consuming.
- The full environmental assessment form under SEQRA shows no significant adverse environmental impacts resulting from the plan's implementation.
- All new installations will be undertaken pursuant to a DEC work plan. Any modifications to the siting criteria will include consultation with the APA.

# Public Comments

- Four public comments were received; all in support of the proposed amendment – excerpts are included below:
  - “Siting the decontamination units at campgrounds and day-use areas ***makes it easy for boaters to follow the legally required clean, drain and dry practices*** to prevent the spread of AIS.”
  - “The proposed amendment will ***enable the increased use of decontamination units*** and ***make them more cost effective*** to run.”
  - “***These campgrounds and day-use areas are some of our most visible recreation areas*** drawing over 1M visitors per year. Many of these visitors come from across NY and the entire NE region where AIS are prevalent. Therefore, it is critically important to have facilities to decontaminate watercraft to protect our waterbodies.”
  - “Our Town is pleased to see that DEC is updating the UMP to allow for construction of permanent structures to store boat decontamination equipment. We are supportive of this proposed change. This will assure that any state decontamination stations are able to be operated and stored properly... ***It will also assure that any such facilities are constructed in an environmentally sound manner to prevent any runoff and limit the impact on the surrounding area.***”

# Public Comments

- Commenters also were interested in the improved use of resources and the best available technology:
  - Towns and lake associations expend resources to support AIS prevention efforts, however many have limited budgets and want to **ensure that spread prevention efforts are strategic and maximize scarce resources**
  - One comment noted that DEC should build storage facilities to accommodate additional decontamination unit models
  - **Several sites were suggested for future decon units**, including Fish Creek Pond Campground, Paradox Lake Campground, Caroga Lake Campground
- Commenters included the Upper Saranac Foundation, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Town of Caroga Lakes Management Committee, and the Paradox Lake Association

# SLMP Conformance

- Intensive use areas are developed sites; the SLMP allows for the type of storage buildings described in the amendment
- DEC has criteria for siting, construction, and maintenance of the decon facilities that is in harmony with the wild character of the Park and consistent with IUA guidelines:
  - Avoiding material alteration of wetlands
  - Minimizing extensive topographic alterations
  - Limiting vegetative clearing
  - 150 ft setback from waterbodies (mean high water mark)
  - Screening from view from the waterbody
- Modifications to facility design or site criteria will require consultation with the Agency

# Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend that the 2022 Amendment to the Generic UMP/GEIS for Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas for Watercraft Decontamination Facilities be determined to be conforming with the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.



Second Pond Boat Launch in Harrietstown, NY.

# Questions?



Photo from [adkwatershed.org](http://adkwatershed.org)