

2019 Memorandum in Support

Bill: A7692 by Assemblymember Englebright and S5937 by Senator Kaminsky

Title: Extends provisions relating to the department of environmental conservation's management of aquatic invasive species, spread prevention and penalties.

The Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) Supports this Legislation.

This legislation extends provisions requiring individuals to clean, drain, and dry watercrafts and gear, including removing visible plants and animals when entering and leaving a boat launch site in New York State. These are essential provisions in ongoing efforts stop the spread of invasive species which are transported to new waterways by recreational boats.

Harmful exotic aquatic species pose a serious threat to many of New York's waterways and the native species that inhabit them. Economically important industries such as tourism and commercial and recreational fishing are put at risk by Aquatic Invasive Species infestations. The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEC) management of invasive species has been working well. This legislation ensures that DEC has the tools needed to significantly reduce instances of cross contamination between waterways is extended.

One hundred and five lakes in the Adirondack Park are known to be contaminated by one or more harmful aquatic invasive species such as water chestnut and Eurasian watermilfoil.¹ Boats are often transported from one body of water to another, posing a serious threat to uncontaminated water bodies. This legislation continues a successful program that reduces the instances of further contamination by requiring boaters to clean, drain, and dry their watercrafts including bilge areas, livewells, bait wells, and ballast tanks. This is especially important when recreational boats are entering lakes without invasives after being in infested areas.

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¹ <http://adkinvasives.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/APIPP-2018-Annual-Report.pdf>