

Hydrilla in the Cayuga Inlet

August 2011-2020



Prepared by:

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Photo credit: Robert L. Johnson

Presentation Overview

1. Background and Actions to Date
2. Looking Ahead
3. What You Can Do

Roxanna Johnston, City of Ithaca
Watershed Coordinator and
Cayuga Inlet Hydrilla Task Force

Sharon Anderson, CCE-Tompkins
Cayuga Inlet Hydrilla Task Force
www.ccetompkins.org/hydrilla

Hydrilla verticillatum

- World's most invasive plants
- Won't "run its course"
- Spread by humans
- Cayuga Inlet 8/11



Linderman Creek

August 6, 2011



August 28, 2011



Rate of Growth in Linderman Creek

August 6, 2011



August 28, 2011



How Did Hydrilla Get Here?

Boat



Trailer



Power, Sail or Paddle

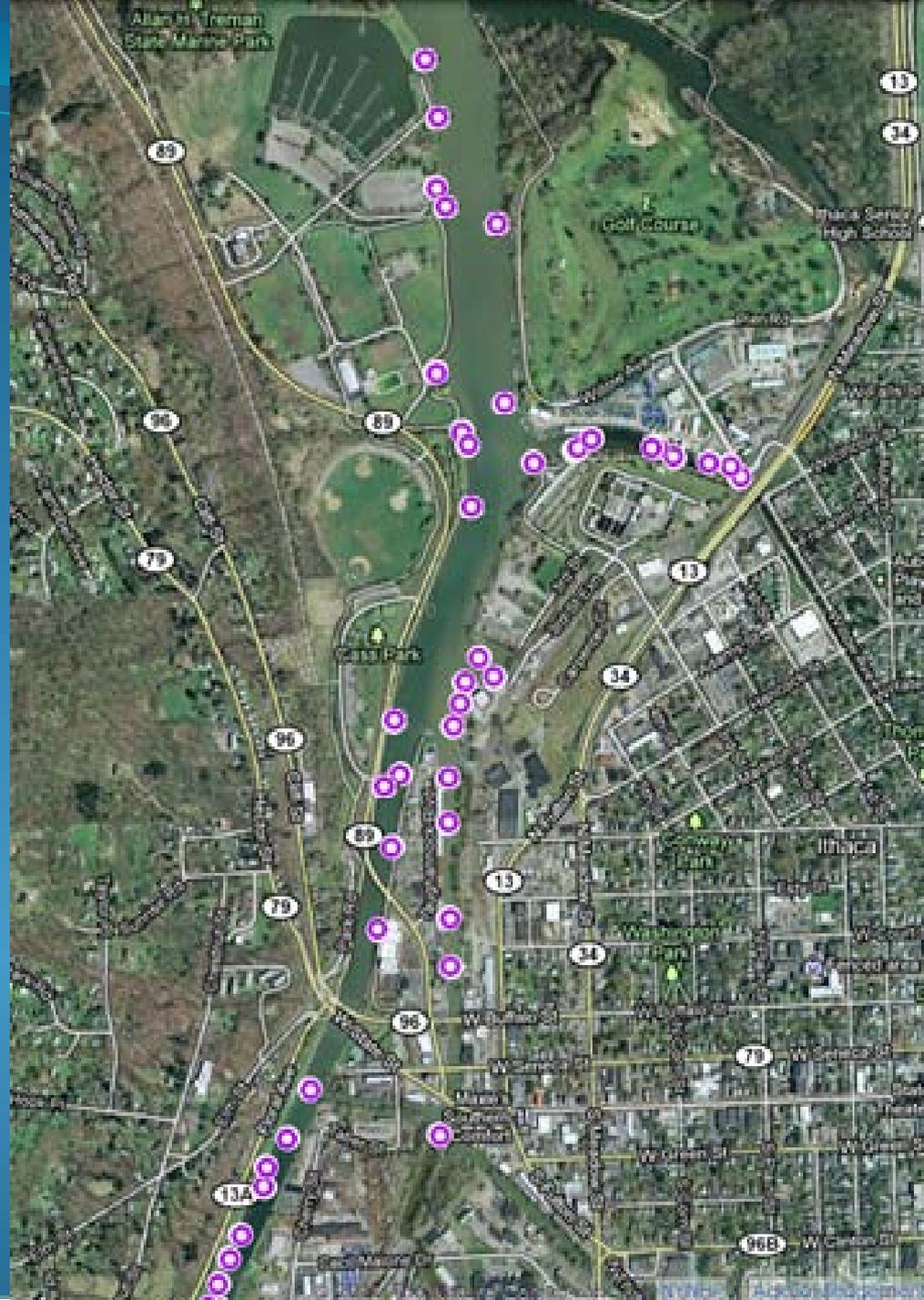
Fall 2011 Surveys

Dense populations:

- Farmer's Market docks
- Cascadilla Creek
- Dragon Boat launch/Cass Park
- Cornell University Boathouse

Rooted fragments
throughout inlet channel

Small fragments
found in lake.



Two Key Features

Tubers



Turions



Why should we be worried?

Ecological Impacts

- Shades out native plants
- Oxygen deficits kill fish
- Reduces habitat quality
- Potential blue-green algae outbreaks



1 year

Economic Impacts

Impedes boating, fishing & swimming

Cripples tourism & property values

Costs millions to manage



Hydrilla infestation
Withlacoochee River, Florida
Photo by Brian Nelson
Copyright 1997 Southwest Florida Water Management District

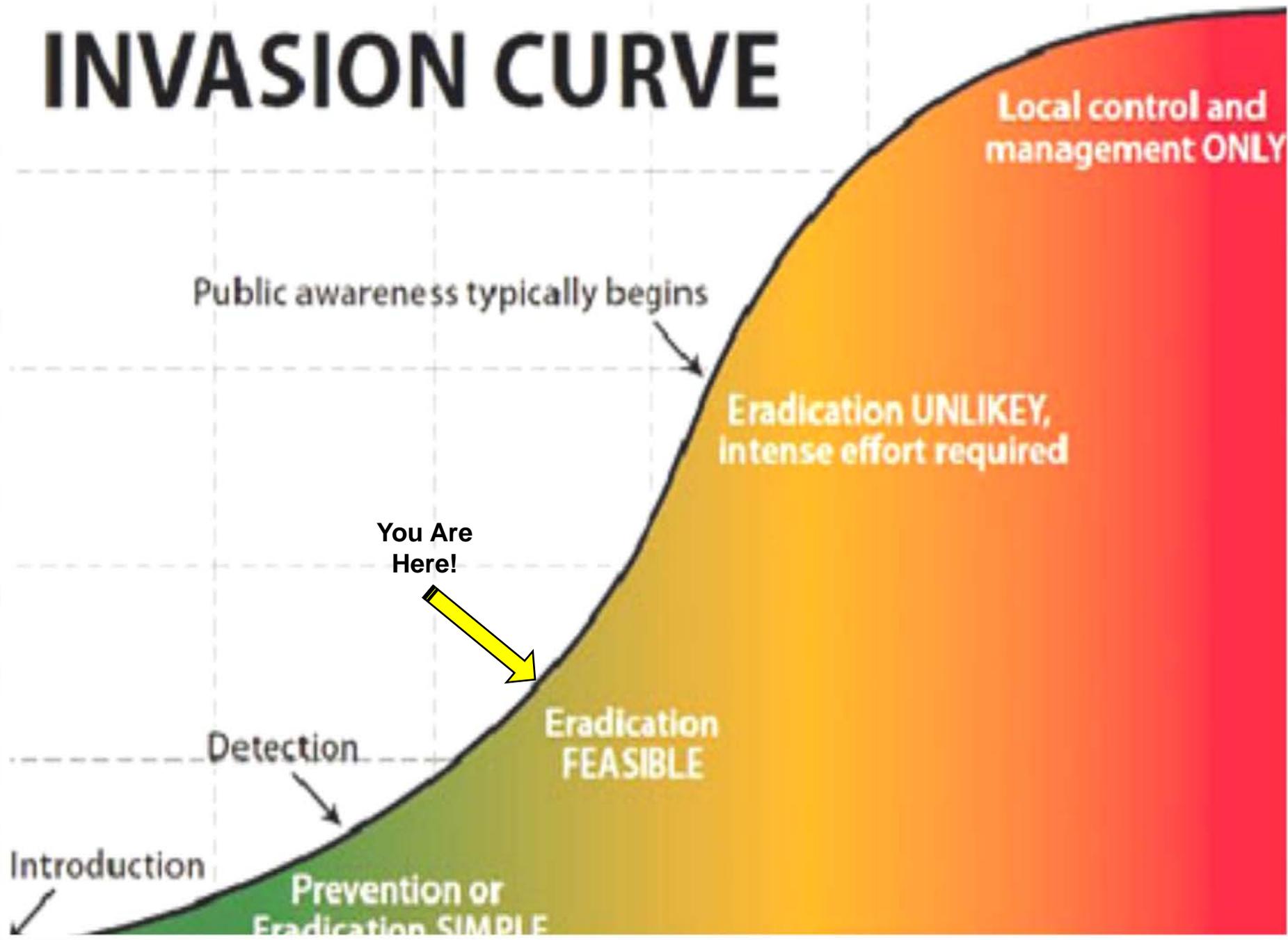
3-5 years?



Potential for spread throughout the region is ***ENORMOUS***.

Hydrilla is not currently present in the Great Lakes.

INVASION CURVE



Response Measures: Sept. – Oct. 2011



Lake Survey Completed – Sept. 5
(no confirmed lake presence!)

Sept. 19: *City recommends boaters stay off of inlet... Community complies!*

PESTICIDE TREATED WATER

AREAS OF THIS NY LAKE HAVE BEEN TREATED WITH AQUATHOL-K TO CONTROL AQUATIC VEGETATION. RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF THESE WATERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NO SWIMMING for 1 DAY	FISHING NO RESTRICTION
NO HUMAN CONSUMPTION for 14 DAYS	NO IRRIGATION OR SPRAYING OF AGRICULTURAL CROPS for 14 DAYS
NO ANIMAL CONSUMPTION for 14 DAYS	NO LAKE OUTFLOW FOR NO RESTRICTION

FROM DATE/TIME TREATED:
October 13, 2011 5:00 pm
DATE TIME

Allied Biological Inc.
www.alliedbiological.com
604 County Hwy. 35
Maryland, NY 12115
(518) 288-7227

THIS NOTICE SHOULD NOT BE AN "EXEMPT" UNTIL ALL RESTRICTIONS HAVE EXPIRED

Permit Application &
Public Notice by
SWCD – Sept. 14



Inlet Closed for Endothall (Herbicide)
Applications

Results



**95% Effectiveness of
Endothall**



**Plant re-growth &
intact roots**



Options Limited



Goal = Eradication

Long-term battle :

- Repeated herbicide applications
- Research on the plant in Cayuga
- Sustained community support
- Long-term monitoring



2012

- 3 herbicide treatments
- Coordinated efforts N/S
- Boat Stewards
- No Inlet closure?



What Can We Do?

- Write elected officials
- Spread the word, not the plant
 - Neighbors
 - Marinas
- Learn more
 - Get Trained; May workshops
 - ccetompkins.org/hydrilla

What can boaters do?

- Avoid
- Remove
- Discard
- Clean and dry



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Plant fragments can survive

Boaters & Property Owners

Around docks & launch sites:

- *Carefully* remove
- Dry
- Compost and yard waste



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Cayuga Inlet the Gateway?



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