

Connecticut Sea Grant, University of CT in Groton

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Connecticut Sea Grant, based at the University of Connecticut in Groton, received funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 2011 as part of the Long Island Sound Study Futures Fund to conduct a social marketing program to raise awareness among coastal boaters and anglers of marine invasive species. The educational program was implemented with the assistance of CT DEEP, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, ten local bait retailers, and some local marinas. Two primary messages shared with boaters and anglers via license holders, key chains, bait stickers, ruler stickers, magnets and posters are “Don’t Dump Bait” and “Keep Boat Hulls Clean”. A survey of the familiarity of coastal boaters and anglers with the issue of invasive species and the materials distributed was undertaken the summer of 2011. Results are being analyzed.

Attachment 1

DRAFT

CT ANS Workgroup

Minutes of April 7, 2011 Meeting

1. Attendance. Approximately 25 members attended the April 7, 2011 meeting held at UCONN's Avery Point campus. The Workgroups three taxonomic subgroups, Freshwater Vertebrates and Invertebrates, Marine, and Plants each had at least 6 participants.
2. Management Classes. The proposed new management classes were discussed by the workgroup as a whole. The intention behind the new classes was to clarify what actions the DEP staff would be responsible for undertaking for each organism.
 - a. One concern expressed by members of the Workgroup, was that limited and incipient populations of all aquatic invasives should be given a high priority for rapid response.
 - b. An additional suggestion was that the plan describes how actions by non-DEP parties will be organized and supported by DEP.
3. Taxonomic Subgroup Discussions. The subgroups met to discuss potential changes to the species and vector list. Suggested revisions to the lists are attached.
4. Follow up discussion. After meeting in subgroups, the Working group reconvened for further discussion. Additional comments and suggestions included:
 - a. The idea that control is not "either/or" as assumed by the proposed management classes, that it is a matter of degree, financial resources available and political will
 - b. That the "Watch List" needs to be divided into subcategories to acknowledge that some potential invaders have more potentially significant impacts.
 - c. That the "brackish" species would be handled by the Marine group.
 - d. Financial concerns.
 - i. The suggestion was made that the group reach out to other organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, to allow pooling of resources.
 - ii. There is a strong need for a dedicated rapid response fund
 - e. That the DEP should put out a "request for qualifications" and maintain a list of contractors qualified to do control work.

Attachment 2

Brochure about didymo prepared and distributed by DEEP (then DEP) following confirmation of the presence of this invasive alga in the West Branch Farmington River in late March, 2011:

How can you prevent the spread of didymo?

Humans are the primary vector responsible for the recent spread of didymo.

Anglers, kayakers and canoeists, boaters and jet skiers can all unknowingly spread didymo. Pets are also capable of spreading didymo.

The microscopic cells can cling to fishing gear, waders (felt soles can be especially problematic), boots and boats, and remain viable for months under even slightly moist conditions.

To prevent the spread of didymo to additional waters, DEP asks that anglers, especially those who also fish the Farmington River or streams outside Connecticut, and other users practice **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** procedures.

CHECK: Before leaving the water, remove all obvious clumps of algae and plant material from fishing gear, waders, clothing & footwear, canoes & kayaks and anything else that has been in the water. Leave them at the site. If you find any later, clean your gear and dispose of all material in the trash.

CLEAN: Soak/spray & scrub boats and all other "hard" items for at least one minute in either very hot (140°F) water, a 2% bleach solution, or a 5% dishwashing detergent solution. Absorbent materials such as clothes and felt soles on waders should be soaked for at least 40 minutes in very hot water (140°F), or 30 minutes in hot water (115°F) with 5% dishwashing detergent. **FREEZING THOROUGHLY WILL ALSO KILL DIDYMO.**


DRY: Drying will also kill didymo, but items must remain completely dry (inside and out) for at least 48 hours.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Additional Guidelines

- When outdoors use only small quantities of cleaning agents such as bleach, dishwashing detergent, and other chemical compounds. Always avoid using cleaning agents streamside or in areas where they can drain into surface waters.
- When possible clean all gear, boots, boats and clothing at home.
- If entering multiple streams in one day, please enter waters known to contain didymo (i.e. Farmington River) last.

Don't forget to properly wash and dry your pets after they leave waters known to contain didymo!



(Munson, Bernese Mountain Dog, swimming in the West Branch Farmington River)

Individuals wishing to report possible sightings of didymo and other aquatic nuisance species can contact:


Department of Environmental Protection
Inland Fisheries Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06109-5127
860-424-3474
dep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov

For more information on didymo:


- CT DEP website: (www.ct.gov/dep)
- CT Angler's Guide: (www.ct.gov/dep/files/dep/fishing/anglers_guide/language.pdf)
- Biosecurity New Zealand website: (www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo)

Didymo

(*Didymosphenia geminata*)
(a.k.a. "Rock Snot")



Learn what you can do to help prevent the spread of this invasive alga!




State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Inland Fisheries Division
www.ct.gov/dep

Created April 11, 2011

What is didymo?

Didymo is an invasive freshwater alga that is most frequently found in cold, relatively shallow streams and rivers having a rocky bottom, characteristics that are also typical of good trout habitat.

During blooms, didymo can form thick mats of material that feel like wet wool and are typically gray, white and/or brown, but never green in color.



These mats form on the bottoms of rivers and streams. If dense mats of didymo develop, they can reduce the recreational and aesthetic value of the affected river.


Since didymo also prefers areas open to sunlight, it is not anticipated that this species will become problematic in smaller headwater streams as long as they have well shaded and naturally forested riparian areas.

Didymo does not present a hazard to human health or to pets.

Where is didymo?

The presence of didymo was first confirmed in the northeastern United States in 2007.

It has since spread to suitable waters in a number of northeastern states (New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia).



Didymo has recently been discovered (March 2011) in portions of the West Branch Farmington River in northwest Connecticut.

Signs will be posted in areas where didymo has been found.

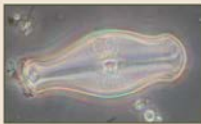


Image of the single cell diatom *Didymosphenia geminata* under microscope magnification.

How to tell if you may be seeing Didymo

	YES	NO
Location	mostly clear flowing water with rocky bottom, may be attached to plants	deep silty areas with no rocks or plants, highly colored waters.
Color	tan, light brown or whitish	green or dark brown/black clear or transparent
Texture	clumps or ropy strands, rough cottony feel, fibrous	thin layers, slippery or gelatinous
Appearance	no leaves or roots (BUT may attach to leaves or stems). Sometimes mistaken for fiberglass, toilet paper or tissue.	has leaves or roots looks like an aquatic plant

If your sample matches three of the "yes" descriptions above and was found in another river or stream **we'd like to know!** Please send a dime-sized sample in a small container or in a sealable plastic bag to:

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Natural Resources
Inland Fisheries Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06109-5127

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number or e-mail address so that we may contact you.

Also, please provide a detailed description of where you found your sample: name of the river or stream, the town, and precise location (such as GPS coordinates, nearest road, a clearly marked map, or a street address).