

## NYSG Train-the-Trainer Approach Advances Watercraft Stewardship

With the growing awareness of the importance and value of watercraft inspection as an aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention method, there is an increasing need for standardization by those conducting watercraft inspections with recreational boaters. Using a train-the-trainer approach, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is advancing education to meet that need by existing and new programs.

As new watercraft inspection programs emerge, it is important that program leaders are aware of the work being done by existing programs in the watercraft inspection arena. Not only does this awareness help the new programs learn from the experiences and expertise of others, it also is a way to protect the integrity of existing programs.

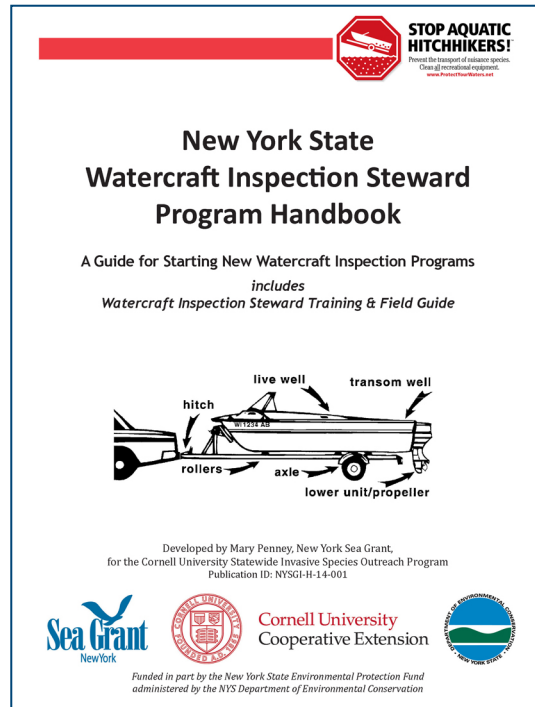
In an effort to enhance the standardization of watercraft inspection across New York State, NYSG is working with partners to provide training for leaders of new programs and those wanting to standardize their efforts. This education outreach is being accomplished by providing face-to-face training, webinars, and the publication of the New York State Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Handbook.

In 2015, NYSG implemented a day-long training workshop attended by more 60 people and developed a Watercraft Inspection Steward Program webinar series with 162 registrants participating in a series of five online educational sessions. (This webinar series is online at [www.nyseagrant.org/watercraftinspection](http://www.nyseagrant.org/watercraftinspection).)

In 2016, NYSG anticipates filling gaps in the training protocol and expanding training efforts to reach more program leaders statewide. These training efforts of NYSG and its partners are available to enhance the standardization of watercraft inspection that, in turn, helps maintain and, in some cases, improve the quality of NY waters by preventing the spread of AIS.

### Funding:

- US Fish & Wildlife Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative monies to Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation District and Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance



### Partners:

- Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper
- Lake Champlain Basin Program
- National Sea Grant Law Center
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Federation of Lake Associations
- New York State Parks
- Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management:
  - Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program
  - Finger Lakes
  - Catskills Regional Invasive Species Partnership
  - St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario, and Western New York,
- Paul Smith's College

### *The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy New York Ecosystems & Habitats*

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

New York Sea Grant Extension

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