

Mandatory Boat Inspections on Lake George

November 6, 2015



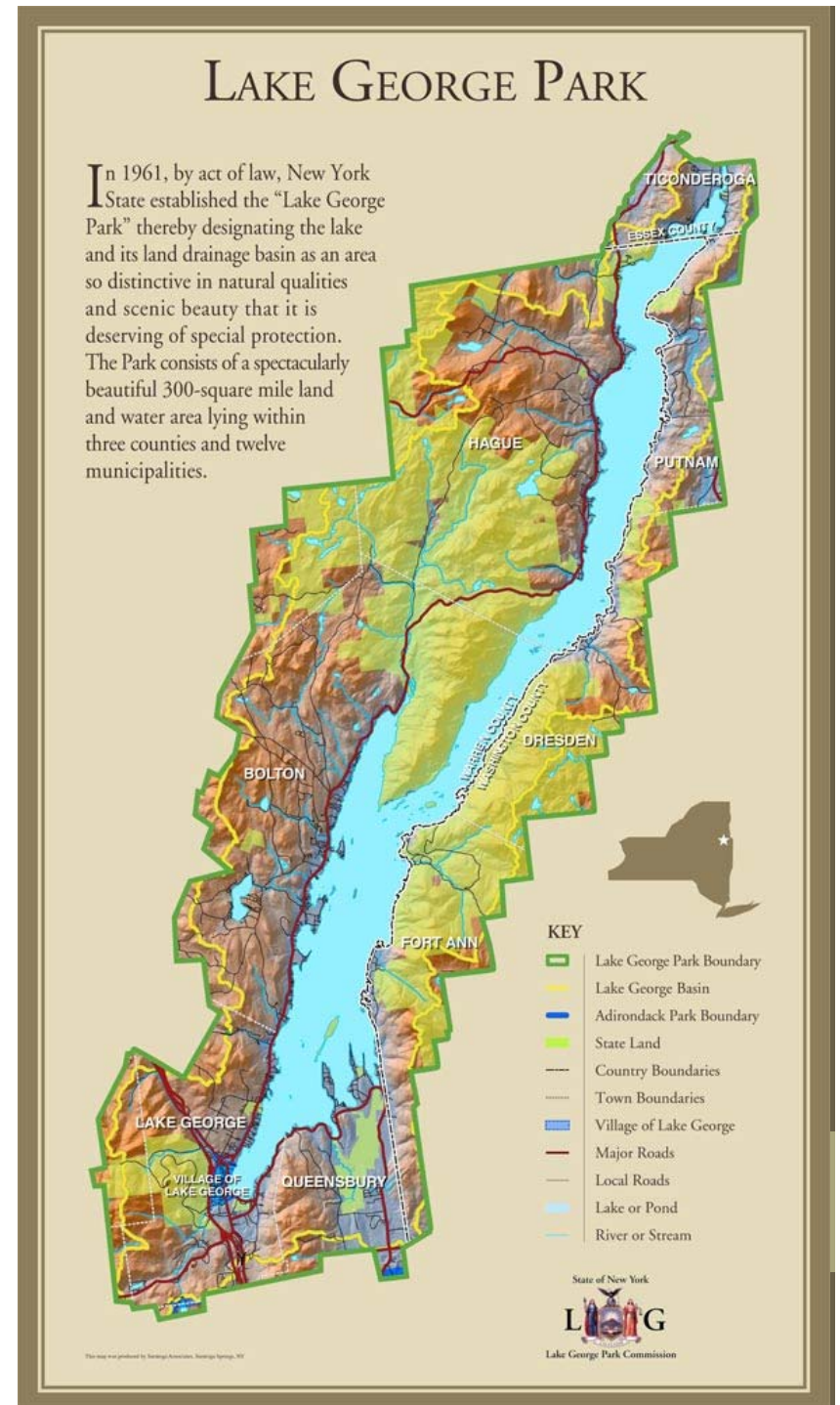
Lake George
Park Commission

Photo courtesy Carl Heilman

What is the Lake George Park Commission?

The Lake George Park Commission is a NYS agency established to oversee and manage the unique resources of the “Lake George Park” especially the lake’s superior water quality.

The Commission’s operating budget is solely funded through “user fees”, consisting of boat and dock registrations on Lake George

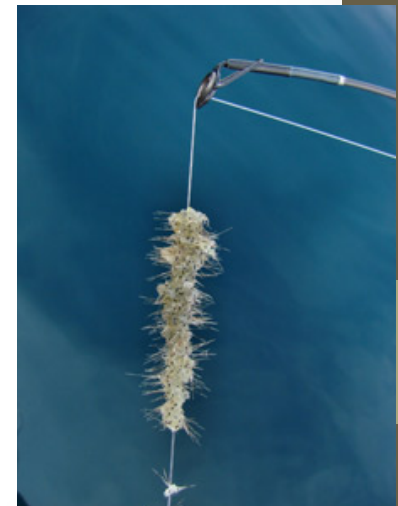


Aquatic Invasive Species and Lake George

- Currently five known invasive species in Lake George

- Eurasian Milfoil
- Zebra Mussels
- Asian Clams
- Curly-leaf Pondweed
- Spiny Waterflea

\$7.3 million dollars spent on management to date



What's out there?







LAKE GEORGE PARK COMMISSION

**Lake George Aquatic Invasive Species
Prevention Plan**

and

Generic Environmental Impact Statement

FINAL

12/03/2013

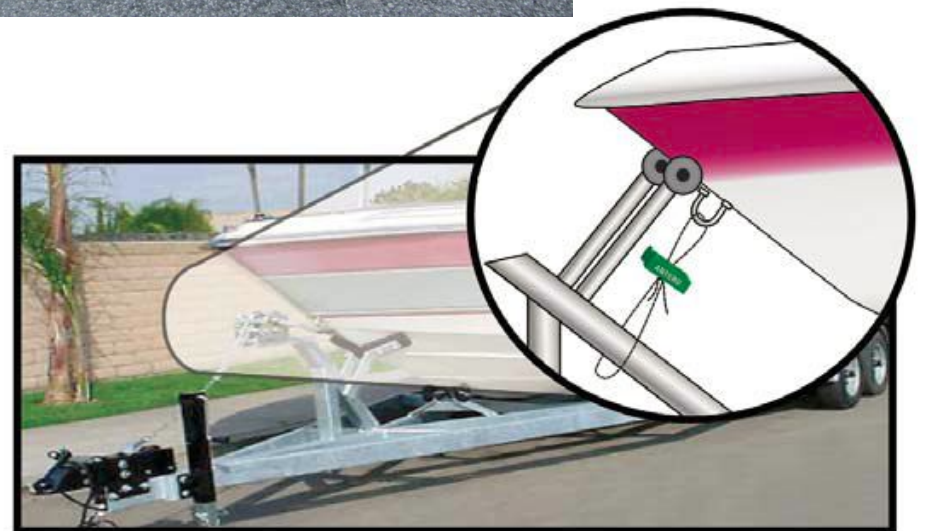
Lake George Park Commission
P.O. Box 749, 75 Fort George Road
Lake George, NY 12845
518-668-9347 www.lgpc.state.ny.us

Bruce Young, Chairman

David Wick, Executive Director

Boat Inspections – the Process

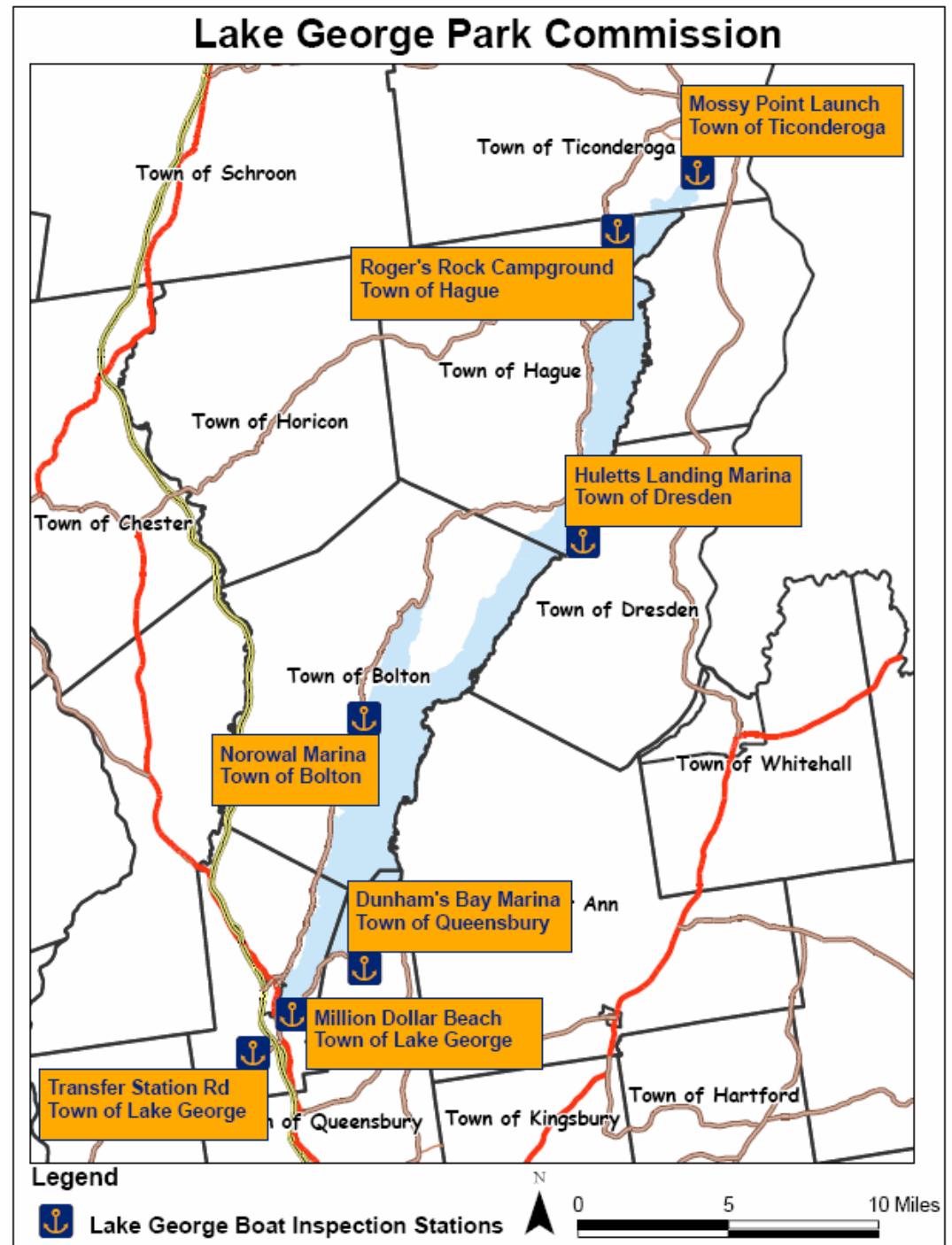
- All trailered boats must be inspected prior to launch, and are then sealed to the trailer as shown at right
- Clean, Drained, Dry standard. If not CDD, then decontaminated with high pressure hot water
- Upon exit from the lake, boat is re-sealed to trailer
- Upon next return to Lake George, if seal is intact, inspection is not necessary
- If seal is not present (i.e. launched at another lake), new inspection is required
- **NO COST TO BOATER**



This is, and will always be, a
program about managing risk



- Seven regional inspection stations around Lake George
- 55 inspectors, hired through temp staffing company, overseen by Commission
- Dawn through dusk operation, staffing varies by season



What are the costs?

One-Time Up Front (300k)

- Equipment (trailered decontamination units)
- Infrastructure upgrades to inspection sites

Annual (550k)

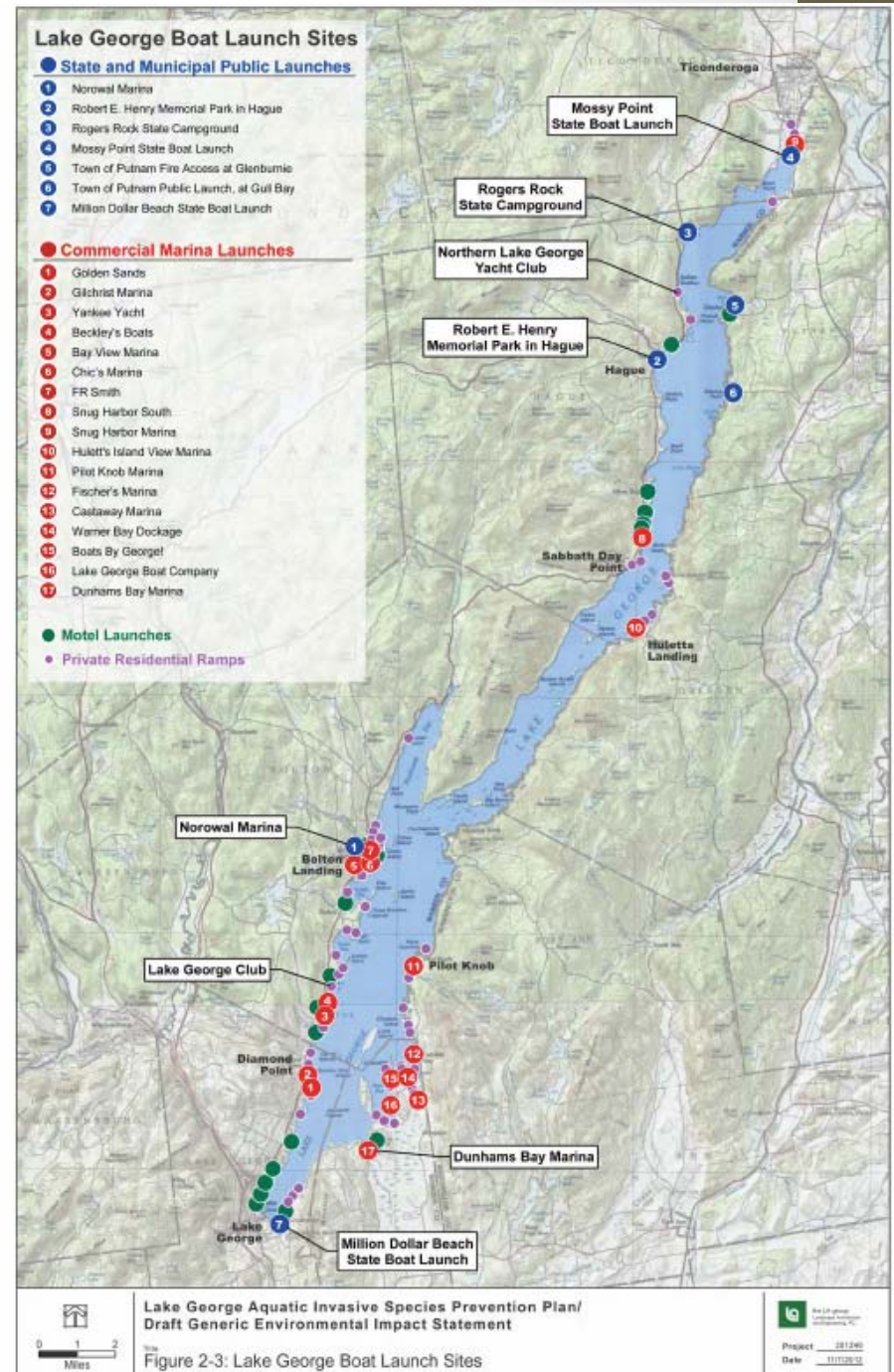
- Seasonal Staffing
- Materials, equipment repairs



Launch Management

86 Trailer-mounted Launches on Lake George
All private launches have executed launch agreements with the Commission under this program

- State and Municipal (11)
 - LGPC Staff
 - After-hours Access via Passive Surveillance
- Marina & Motel (40)
 - Register
 - Staff or Secure Launch
- Homeowners & HOA's (35)
 - Register
 - Launch landowner boats
 - Certification of C-D-D
- Quick Launch & Haulers
 - MOU: chain of custody



Two Years at a Glance

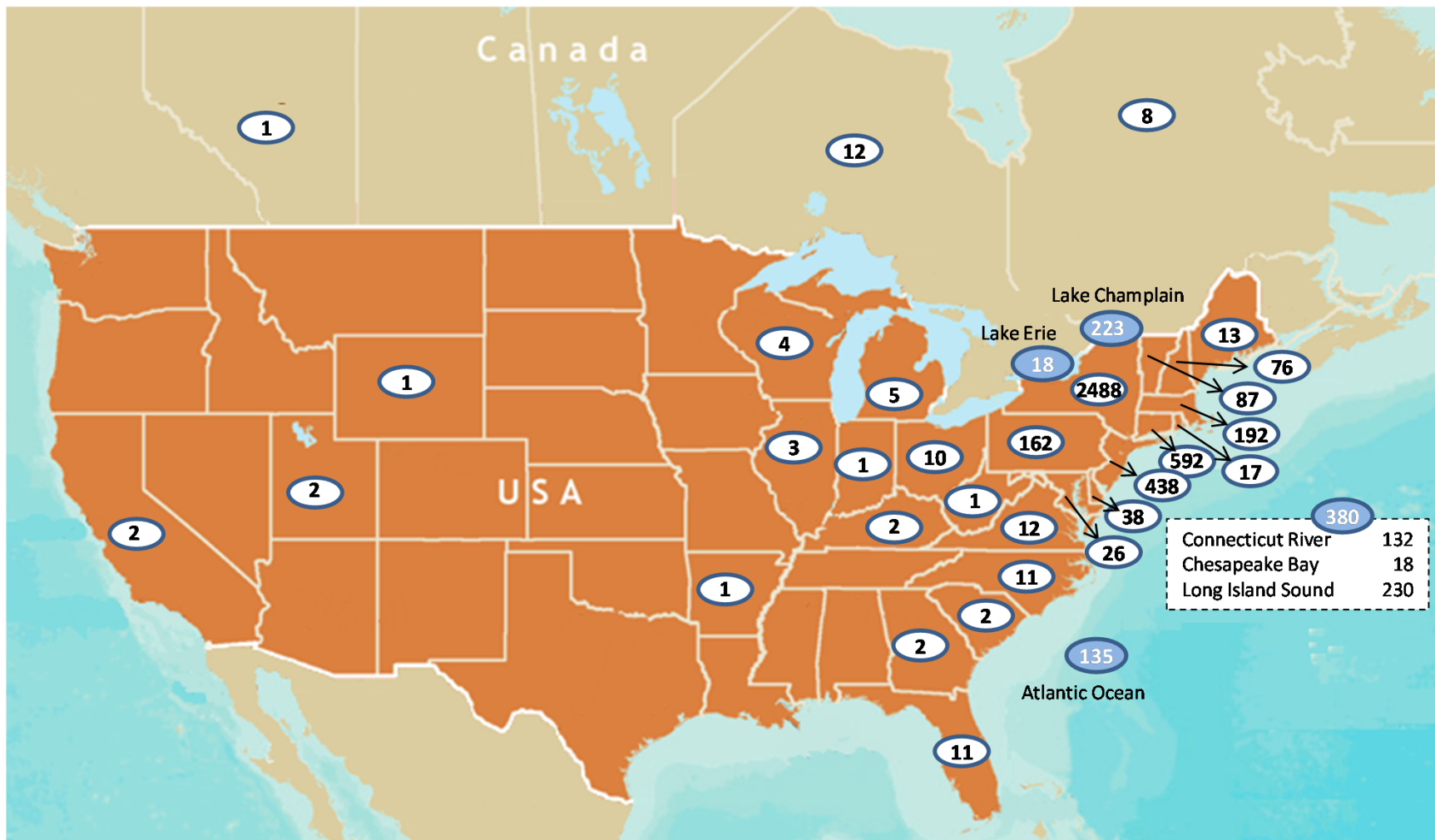
Item	2014	2015	Comment
Total Boater Contacts	18,096	27,484	52% <u>increase</u>
Annual Program Cost	\$668,000	\$576,000	14% <u>decrease</u>
Visible AIS confirmed	144	97	21 samples being analyzed
Overall Decontamination rate	12%	16%	Not Clean, Drained and Dry

Siena Research Institute poll:

96% note that boat inspection program is “very important” or “important”

92% support permanent implementation

Previous Destinations: Watercraft entering Lake George -2015



Key:

State or
Province

Shared
Water Body

Boats came from 420 different
waterbodies so far in 2015

What was the impact to the boating public?

- Travel time to inspection site:

- 0-10 minutes

- Inspection time:

- 5 minute average

- Decon time (if needed):

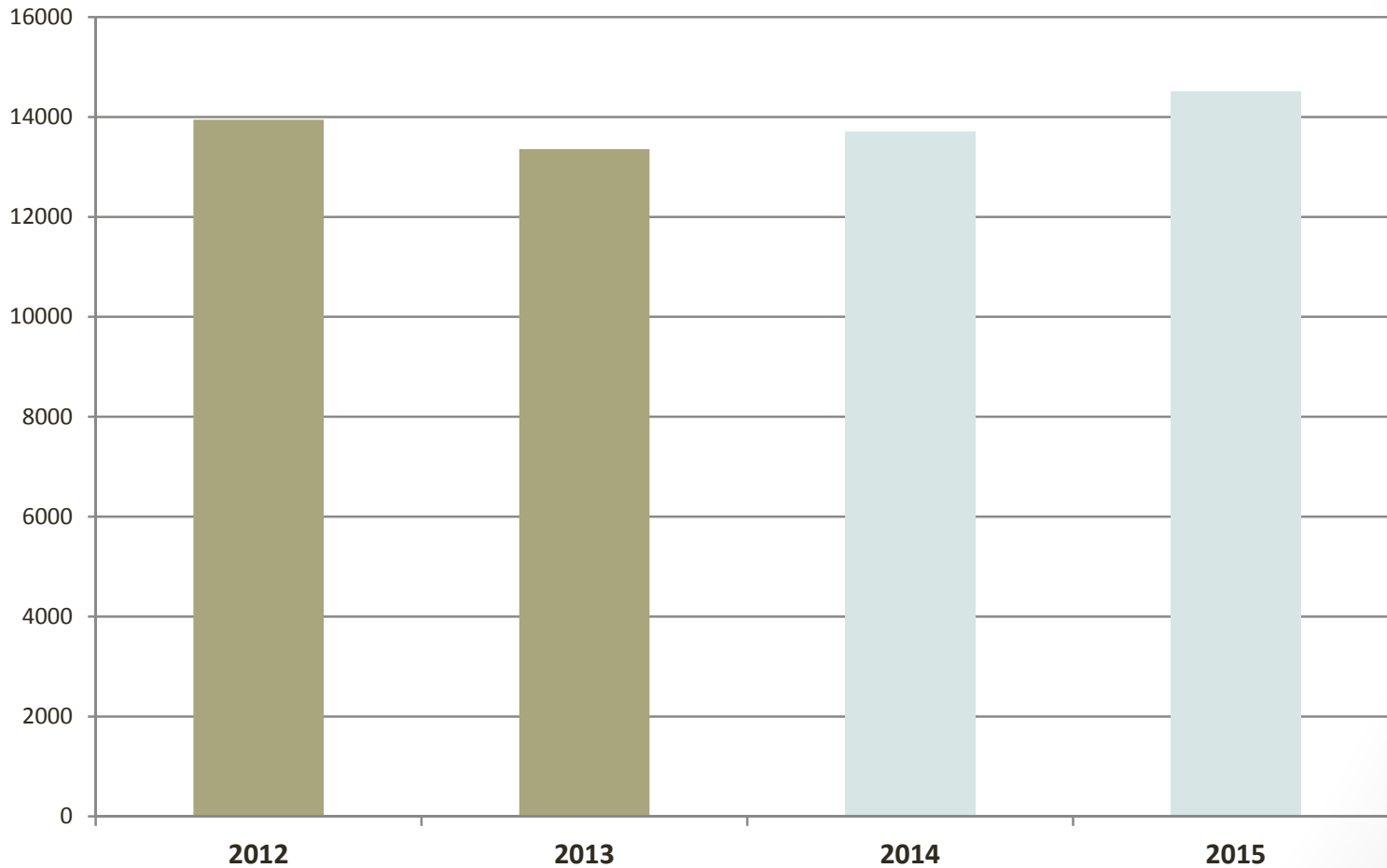
- 9 minute average

- **No cost to boater**

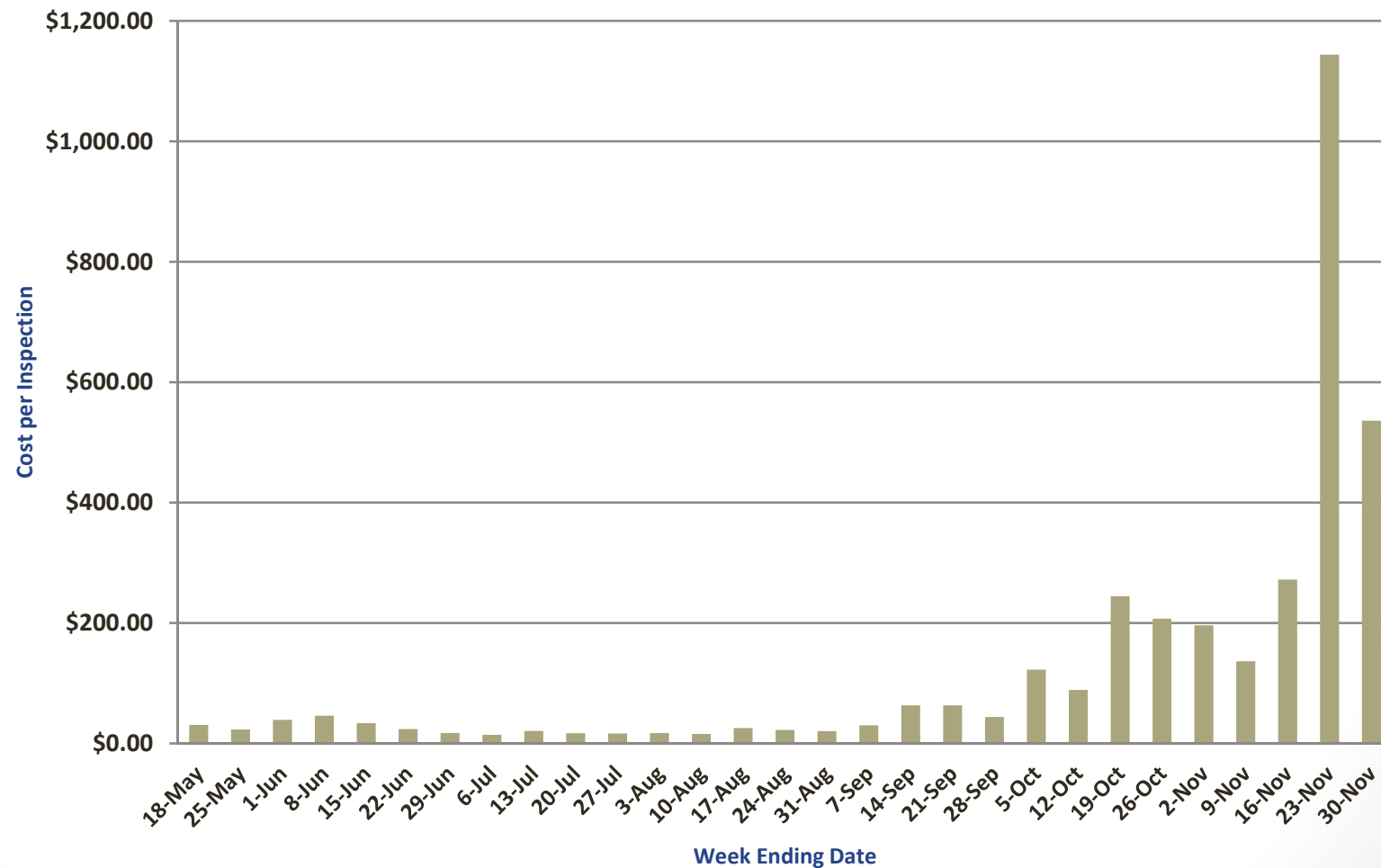
Big Question: Will this program drive boaters away from Lake George?..



LGPC Boat Registrations



Cost Per Inspection (2014 data)



Staff Costs by Year

	Transfer	Dunham's	Mossy Pt.	Roger's Rock	Norowal	MDB	Hulett's	Total
2014	\$ 93,000	\$ 112,000	\$ 126,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 130,000	NA	\$2,000	\$ 550,000
2015	\$ 60,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 104,000	\$ 79,000	\$ 92,000	\$ 81,000	\$2,000	\$ 505,000
2016 est.	\$ 46,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 86,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 82,000	\$ 79,000	\$2,000	\$ 440,000

Through program refinement and site efficiencies, if implemented, 2016 inspection staff costs are projected to be approximately 30% less than original projections for inspection program.

Total program costs (staffing, equipment, materials) of future years are projected to be approximately \$520,000 annually (26% less than original projections).

Funding

- This program exists through the financial support of the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, local municipalities and nonprofit organizations as a cost-share between local and state.

- **State**

- NYS EPF: \$350,000

- **Local**

- Warren County: \$150,000
 - Village of Lake George: \$50,000
 - Town of Lake George: 30,000
 - Town of Bolton: \$30,000
 - Town of Queensbury: \$30,000
 - Fund for Lake George: \$43,000
 - Lake George Association: \$30,000
 - Town of Putnam (launch staffing): \$27,000
 - Town of Hague (launch staffing): \$14,000

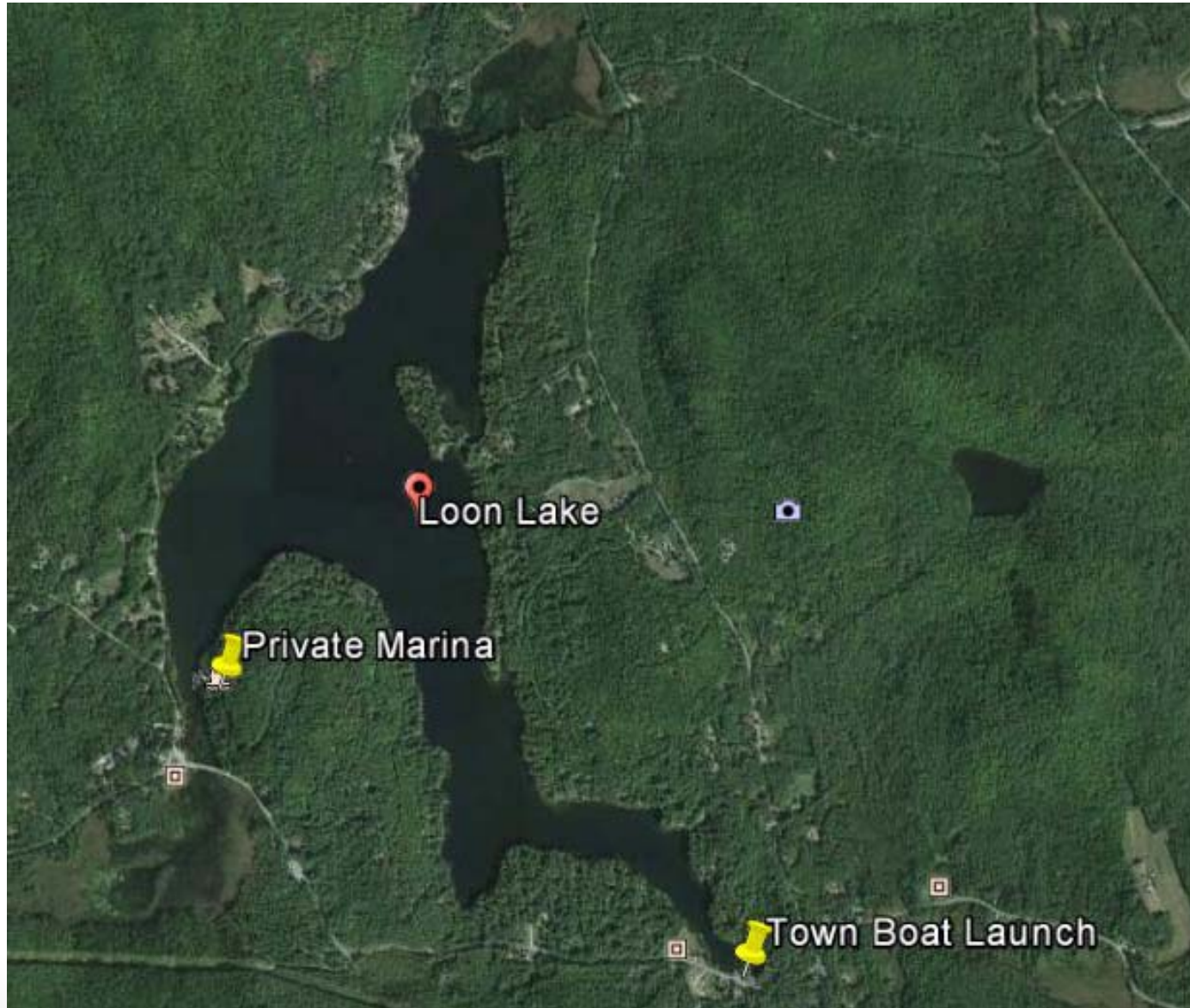
“Our S.A.V.E. Committee commends the Park Commission for implementing the highly successful boat inspection program and pledges to fund up to 50% of the costs over the next three years.”

*Mayor Robert M. Blais
Chairman – Sept 21, 2015*

LakeGeorgeBoatInspections.com



Can Small Lakes Go Mandatory?



Thank You!



Photo courtesy Carl Heilman