



New York B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation (N.Y.B.C.F.)

CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

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Invasive Species Update

DEC: ADDITIONAL DISCOVERIES OF DIDYMO IN FAMED NYS FISHING RIVERS

Main Stem of Delaware River Now Considered Infested with the Aquatic Nuisance Algae. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the presence of the invasive algae didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) in the West Branch of the Delaware River downstream from the Cannonsville Reservoir, indicating that the main stem of the Delaware River is now infested as well.

This is the latest recorded incident of this aquatic nuisance species - also called "rock snot" - in New York State. Didymo has now been verified in the Batten Kill, the East Branch of the Delaware River downstream from the Pepacton Reservoir and the West Branch of the Delaware River downstream Cannonsville Reservoir. The main stem of the Delaware River is now also considered to be infested due to exposure from its East and West Branch tributaries. Currently, didymo is not known to be present in any other New York waterway.

The Delaware tailwaters are one of the premier trout fisheries on the East Coast, and are a popular destination for large numbers of anglers. The discovery of didymo in these waters is particularly troubling given their proximity to other famous trout streams, notably the Beaver Kill and Willowemoc Creek, and the tendency of anglers to fish multiple streams over the course of a day or weekend. The microscopic algae - an invasive species to New York - can survive for many days in cool, damp conditions. Porous materials such as neoprene waders and felt soles used by wading anglers are prime suspects in the spread of didymo among streams.

Didymo cells can produce large amounts of stalk material that forms thick mats on stream bottoms. The appearance of these mats has been compared to brown shag carpet, fiberglass insulation, or tissue paper (picture can be seen at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/environmentdec/36890.html>). During blooms these mats may completely cover long stretches of stream beds and persist for months. The stalk material produced by didymo is slow to break down and may persist for up to two months following its peak growth.

While didymo does not pose a threat to human health, it can alter stream conditions, choking out many of the organisms that live on the stream bottom, potentially causing a ripple effect up the food chain affecting trout and other fish. Didymo has historically been limited to cold, nutrient-poor, northern waters, but in recent decades has been expanding its range and its tolerance to warmer and more productive streams.

Once introduced to an area, didymo can rapidly spread to nearby streams. Anglers, kayakers, swimmers, canoeists, boaters and jet skiers can all unknowingly spread didymo by transporting the cells on boats, bodies and other gear. There are currently no known methods for controlling or eradicating didymo once it infests a water body.

Anglers, canoeists, kayakers, boaters, or others who witness and suspect the presence of didymo in state waters are advised to contact DEC with the location so that samples can be taken to document and monitor the algae's spread.

DEC continues to urge anglers and other water recreationists to Check, Clean and Dry to prevent the introduction and spread of didymo and other potentially invasive organisms from one water to another:

Check -- Before leaving a river or stream, remove all obvious clumps of algae and look for hidden clumps. Leave them at the affected site. If you find any later, do not wash them down drains; dispose of all material in the trash.

Clean -- Treatment varies depending on what needs to be cleaned. Be sure that the solution completely penetrates thick absorbent items such as felt-soled waders and wading boots.

Non-absorbent items

Detergent or salt: soak or spray all surfaces for at least one minute in a 5% solution (by volume) of dishwashing detergent or salt (7 ounces of detergent or salt added to water to make one gallon); or

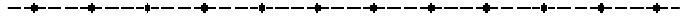
Hot water: soak for at least one minute in very hot water kept above 140 °F (hotter than most tap water) or for at least 20 minutes or in hot water kept above 115 °F (uncomfortable to touch).

Absorbent items require longer soaking times. For example, felt-soled waders require:

Hot water: soak for at least 40 minutes in hot water kept above 115 °F; or Hot water plus detergent: soak for 30 minutes in hot water kept above 115 °F containing 5% dishwashing detergent.

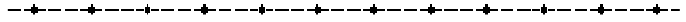
Dry -- If cleaning is not practical, after the item is completely dry to the touch, wait an additional 48 hours before contact or use in any other waterway. Check thick absorbent items closely to assure that they are dry throughout. Equipment and gear can also be placed in a freezer until all moisture is frozen solid.

NOTE: If cleaning, drying or freezing is not practical, restrict equipment to a single water body. While DEC recommends anglers always take these precautions, it is especially important that any gear used out of state be treated before using in NEW York waters.



Conservation Education & Awareness

We're participating in the Fragile Wilderness presentation in Watertown NY on 23 August hosted by the NY State Zoos. Our Federation will have a static display booth highlighting our club's recent conservation activities and projects. We'll also have flash cards for children to identify various species of fish and evasive plants. Our main theme is to show case our Federation to all participants as an organization that not only fishes for bass, but one that that also participates in habitat restoration and enhancement while promoting conservation education and awareness to all.



Clubs in Action

At this writing for we have one Federation Club that has stepped to the front of the pack with their conservation efforts for this season.

Our **Long Island Bassmasters** have been pretty busy working a couple of high payoff actions. I call them high payoff because this club's commitment to the enhancement of our resource will not only benefit the bass anglers of today, but more importantly it has the potential to benefit all anglers for generations to come. To read more go to: http://sports.espn.go.com/outdoors/bassmaster/conservation/news/story?page=b_cons_NY_Stocking_52908

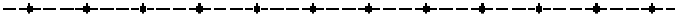


Stocking Lake Ronkonkoma

Their club also assisted in is an evasive species removal project. The Peconic Estuary Program and partners have embarked on a multi-year volunteer eradication effort in an attempt to rid the Peconic River of *Ludwigia peploides* (water primrose) and prevent spreading to other Long Island waters.



If your club has completed any conservation projects let us know and we'll tell your story here and hopefully get you some exposure on the national BASS Conservation webpage.



Remember what we do today has the potential to build our future for generations to come.

Practice Selective Harvest and Free the Fighter

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