





Shoreline Weed Attack Team Created by Sandy Engel





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## To Pull or Not to Pull **Considerations**

- Guidance from DNR &/or qualified diver (AIS experience)
- **Feasibility** 
  - LABOR INTENSE!!
  - Volunteer pool ongoing project
  - Outside expertise/training

## Site Assessment Survey

- » Time of year/Size/Location
- Initial/Pretreatment survey\*
  - Participate whenever possible
- » When/Where to Begin-Ask the **Experts**

Indicates high visibility to public.



\*Picking your applicator – Do your homework! Ask other lake associations. Interview & ask for list of other references! (Northern Aquatic Services- See Credits)

# Training Volunteers

- Don't try this at home! Seek professional advice!!!
- Train divers, snorkelers, walkers together
- Demonstrate pulling techniques on natives (limited)
- Accurate ID of EWM and look-a-likes
  - » Shadowing, Peer-to-Peer Learning
  - » Stress sight and touch
  - » Incidental learning of look-a-likes
- Assess skill level
- Milfoil diver's motto, "When in doubt, pull it out." (caution)
- ° Safety protocol Applies to divers & snorkelers
- ° Encourage family members/onlookers to join in!!

### **Dive Preparation**

(at least 30 min. in advance)

- <u>Line up SWAT team</u> (location/rain date)
- <u>Contact residents</u> parking, dock, use of restrooms, road & lake markers \*\*
- Post signs alerting boaters at boat landings (private & public)
- <u>Note conditions</u>: Season, wave action, overcast, sunny, wind direction, time of day, sediment
- Mark outside perimeter bright, large buoys/flags
- Mark plants (single,clump,bed) marker buoys OR
- Grids/Lanes lathe markers (48")
- Safety check of area
- Equipment Assemble before arrival of team

#### INTRODUCING OUR SWAT TEAM

- Topsiders <sup>♥</sup>
  - → Pontoons/boats
    - Traffic control
    - Plant disposal
    - Exchange bags
    - Netters
    - Rest area
  - Kayaks/Canoes
    - Stay close to divers
    - Bag exchange
    - Netters

- Pullers (Buddy system)
  - → Divers
    - 6-12' Work lanes or markers
    - Monitored by Netters to avoid straying and bag exchange
  - → Snorkelers
    - 3-6' Work lanes or markers
    - Netters for divers
  - → Walkers
    - Work shoreline
    - Netters (use pole extensions)

### **Tools of the Trade**

- ✓ Nets skimmer & deep nets-Pool supply Co.
- ✓ Sheets (pontoon)
- ✓ Mesh bags
- **✓ Butterfly/skimmer nets**
- ✓ Fluorescent Signs for pontoons-SWAT team ♥
- ✓ Diver Flags ∜
- ✓ Bags-Feed, onion, burlap
- ✓ Iron bar for diver contact

- ✓ Plastic Bottles w/ string & weight or marker buoys
- ✓ Containers-5 gal. or garbage can
- ✓ Food & beverages
- ✓ Cell phone
- ✓ Lathe bundle (48")
- **✓** Fun noodles
- ✓ Extra towels
- ✓ Extra snorkel gear
- ✓ Swim goggles (shallow dives
- ✓ Sunscreen
- **✓ Water shoes**

## Manual Removal Strategies

#### ~ Sediment

- \* Muck- Stirs up bottom (turbidity)
  - Move to new area, then return
  - Move slow, avoid touching bottom
  - Remove flippers?
  - Work on knees?
- \* Sand difficult to remove root crown-garden trowel

#### ~ Disposal

- Partially fill garbage cans/buckets w/ water for easy removal of EWM from nets
- \* Turn nets/bags inside out to reuse

#### ~ Pulling Techniques

- \* Dig around <u>root crown & stolons</u> (runners).
- \* Arm/wrist Wrap Gently wrap plant around arm
- \* <u>Swim Pull</u> Remove root crown, place in bag & capture plant while swimming
- \* <u>Vertical Bagging-</u>(narrow plants) Pull Lg. bag over plant from top down. (may need 2 people)
- \* Mark "stopping point"

>>After draining water from bags & removing from lake area, weeds can be thoroughly dried and composted

# Monitor, Monitor, Monitor!!!

- Monitoring is <u>crucial</u> to the success of any EWM management strategy implemented. It must go hand-in-hand with all other control methods
- It must be an <u>ongoing</u> process that continues all season long, both above and below the water.
- Above-water monitoring requires skill and repetition. Youth are quick learners at identifying EWM.
- New or recurring beds need to be marked using a GPS or other method.
- Make your monitors visible to others!! (t-shirts, signs)

# Value of Networking

- Learn new methods from others
- Find new ideas for equipment
- Share names, emails, etc.
- Locate businesses
- Things happening locally, regionally, nationally
- New research
- Help others get started

## Volunteers-Recruitment

- Lake Association (meetings, newsletters, website), Door-to-Door in infested areas, Fire Dept, Diving Clubs, Newspapers, Follow up leads, Flyers in town
- During your dives be sure Topsiders & walkers are doing PR, handing out business cards/flyers, and taking names
- Sales Pitch <u>Save your Lake</u>, Family activity, set your schedule, rewarding, choice of jobs. "So, when would be a good time for you?"
- Youth are a valuable asset-Quick learners, draw in family, future lake leaders!!!

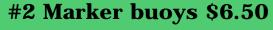
## websites

- Washington State-Dept. of Ecology http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/links/plants.html
  - Go to "Aquatic Plant Management"
- John Madsen Army Research & Development http://www.aquatics.org/pubs/madsen2.html
- "google©" eurasian water milfoil hand pulling
- DNR.gov This will bring up many DNR websites
- Each of these sites will lead you to other links

### **Supplies**

**#1 Skimmer \$11** 





#2 Underwater viewer \$66









**#4 Underwater viewer \$40** 



"Do-it-yourself" << PVC pipe & plexiglass 5 gal. bucket & plexiglass>>

**#5 Underwater viewer \$24** 



- #1 poolsupplies.com/maintenance/hand-skimmers.asp
- #2 basspro.com Search "marker buoys
- #3 marisafe.com/store Search "underwater viewer"
- #4 http://www.aquaspy.com.au/
- #5http://www.boatersworld.com/product/476981790.htm

## **Credits**

**Photos** 

Dennis O'Hara

- -northernimages.com
- GeoAnn
- Ashland Daily Press
  - Rick Olivo

Services

Northern Aquatic Services

Weed Control on Lakes & Ponds

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