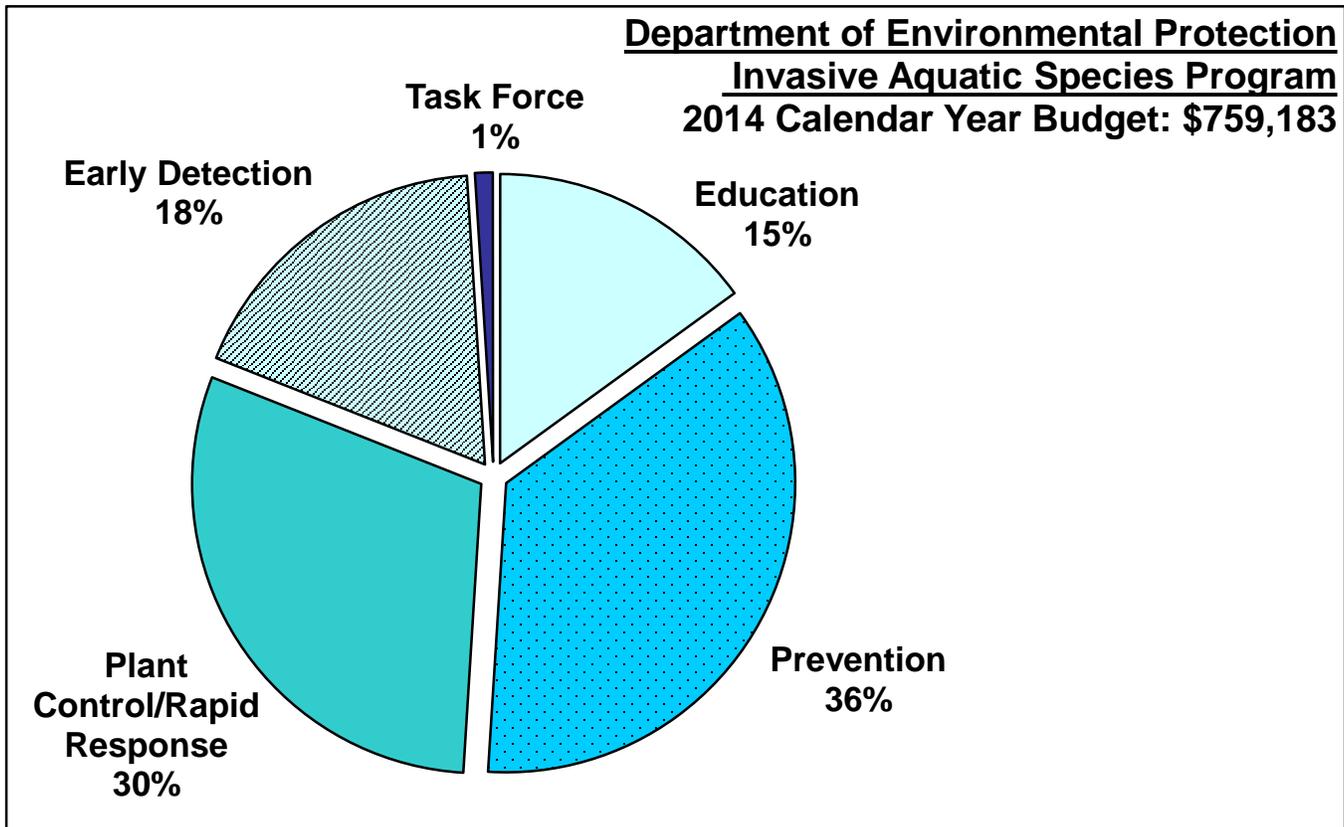


**Department of Environmental Protection
Invasive Aquatic Species Program
2014 Calendar Year Budget: \$759,183**



Funding

Funding for Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Invasive Aquatic Species Program (IASP) comes from a fee on motorboats using inland waters. Boaters with Maine registrations pay \$10 and must display the “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers – Preserve Maine Waters” sticker attached to the boat registration sticker. Boaters with out-of-state registration and all seaplane operators must purchase and display the \$20 Lake and River Protection Sticker.

Following are brief descriptions of primary program elements and major budgeted expenses for calendar year 2014. Budgeted salary/benefits for three DEP staff positions totals \$248,829 in 2014. Each program element in the pie chart (above) includes cost of estimated staff time (see below for staff time estimates). The indirect charge, or overhead, is approximately 16 percent on every dollar spent except for grant funds (there is no overhead on grant funds). The 2014 budget includes \$57,554 in overhead. Please email milfoil@maine.gov with questions regarding DEP funding and budget.

Early Detection

Over 3,500 “citizen scientists,” trained and supported by the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program under contract with DEP, form the state’s early detection program. They provide a core force for surveying boat ramps, inlets, dock and swim areas and other areas for potential plant invasion. We expect to spend up to \$32,000 for Invasive Plant Patrol Workshops and up to \$50,000 for technical assistance and public outreach. An estimated 16 percent of DEP’s IASP staff time is allotted to early detection.

Education

IASP staff engages in educational activities to inform residents and visitors of the invasive species threat, promotes behaviors that prevent the spread of new infestations and advises lake groups on plant control strategies and techniques. These activities include the following:

- assisting lake groups with spread prevention and plant control programs
- speaking about the invasive aquatic species threat to varied audiences and responding to requests for information from media outlets
- distribution of brochures and other collateral materials
- technical assistance to plant retailers and schools that use plants as classroom tools
- distribution of warning signs on infested and non-infested lakes and ponds

Approximately \$16,500 is budgeted for education and outreach projects. In addition, an estimated 30 percent of IASP staff time is allotted to education.

Boat Inspections

One day, all boaters will inspect their watercraft and trailers for hitchhiking plants and other biological debris that migrate from lake to lake. Until then, posting inspectors at ramps is the most effective way to assure biological threats do not spread and provides an opportunity to show boaters the importance of inspecting and removing plants and debris. Boat inspectors are trained and grant funds are provided to support lake association and municipal boat inspection programs. Inspections have increased from 2,500 in 2001 to over 80,000 in 2012 and 2013. The 2014 Courtesy Boat Inspection Program budget includes \$95,000 for small grants to local boat inspection programs and \$75,000 for inspections to prevent spread from already infested lakes. An estimated 20 percent of IASP staff time is allotted to boat inspections.

Plant Control and Rapid Response

Local and regional lake groups work tirelessly to control established infestations. The 2014 budget includes \$80,000 for grants to local groups. The IASP responds to newly-discovered infestations to limit spread both within the infested lakes and beyond. Efforts include manual removal of plants by trained volunteers and SCUBA divers, deployment of warning buoys to direct boat traffic away from infested areas, and—in worst-case situations—the application of herbicides. The 2014 budget includes approximately \$36,000 for potential rapid response to a new infestation and for the IASP's ongoing management of existing infestations, including hydrilla (Pickerel Pond and Damariscotta Lake) and Eurasian water milfoil (Salmon Lake and Pleasant Hill Pond). An estimated 32 percent of IASP staff time is allotted to plant control and rapid response.

Task Force/Interstate efforts

Collaboration, both with neighboring states that have more extensive invasive plant problems and with Maine stakeholders, is essential to set priorities and find efficiencies. Not only do nearby states have a greater variety of invasive species able to migrate into Maine, they also have more experience in curbing or controlling plant infestations. Communication and the free exchange of experience are essential.

Within Maine, a Governor-appointed panel of stakeholders, the Interagency Task Force on Invasive Aquatic Plants and Nuisance Species, overviews and advises how revenues coming to the IASP serve the state best. An estimated 2 percent of IASP staff time is allotted to Task Force/Interstate efforts.