



FACT SHEET

September 2018

NORTHEAST HYDRILLA — New York

Section 104 of the River & Harbor Act of 1958
Aquatic Plant Control Research Program

Location

- The monoecious biotype of hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) was recently discovered in the Cayuga Lake Inlet, Ithaca, NY; Erie Canal, Tonawanda, NY; Cayuga Lake, Aurora, NY; and Pymatuning Lake, PA/OH.

Project Description

- The Buffalo District and Engineer Research Development Center are providing technical support to state and local resource managers at all four project locations.
- The Corps is leading a demonstration project for control efforts at the Erie Canal site, about 13 miles, and Aurora site, about 30 acres. Local interests are leading the effort at Cayuga Lake and Pymatuning Lake.
- Several EPA-registered herbicides are available to control hydrilla depending on site-specific conditions; and evaluating other control measures for use in northern glacial water bodies.
- Total cost of the technical support and herbicide application at the Erie Canal is

approximately \$500k annually; costs are reevaluated annually.

- The first year cost of herbicide application and monitoring at the Aurora, NY, site was also about \$500k, with similar costs anticipated for 2018. Future support will be provided on a funding availability basis.
- Assistance provided under the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program is 100 percent federal.

Importance

- This project will help protect the derived ecological and economic benefits from the Erie Canal system and Cayuga Lake. The project will also help reduce the risk of hydrilla spreading to other water bodies in the Great Lakes.
- In the absence of hydrilla control measures, the highly invasive plant will crowd out native vegetation, diminish habitat available for fish and wildlife, and impede economic and recreational use of the waterways.

Project Phase	Est. Fed. Cost of Phase	Federal Funding through FY17	FY18 Requirement	FY18 Appropriation	FY19 Requirement	FY19 Budget
Design & Implementation	\$6M	\$1,550K*	\$800K	\$100K	\$800K	\$0K

* \$3.38M additional funding through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Program

Current Status

- Technical support is ongoing at all locations.
- The fourth herbicide application in the Erie Canal was completed in July 2017. Plans for the 2018 herbicide application are in development.
- The first in a series of herbicide applications was applied at the Aurora site in July 2017.

- Public outreach and education regarding the impact of hydrilla and the proposed treatment is ongoing.

Project Sponsor/Customer

- New York State Department of Conservation and New York State Canal Corporation.

- Various resource agencies in Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Congressional Interests

- Representative Tom Reed R NY-23
- Representative Brian Higgins D NY-26
- Senator Charles Schumer D NY
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand D NY
- Representative David Joyce R OH-14
- Representative Mike Kelly R PA-3

- Eradication of invasive species is challenging especially if the species becomes established.
- The Aquatic Plant Control Research Program hasn't been in the President's Budget since 2011.

Issues



Hydrilla infestation at the Erie Canal, photo courtesy of Mike Netherland



Hydrilla infestation at Cayuga Lake Inlet, photo courtesy of Robert Johnson

Project Manager: Michael Greer (716) 879-4229, michael.j.greer@usace.army.mil