

# Adirondack Park Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Program

Dan Kelting, Executive Director &  
Bill Brosseau, Stewardship Program Director



PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE  
**ADIRONDACK  
WATERSHED  
INSTITUTE**

# Our Mission



**Protect Clean Water**



**Promote Healthy Watersheds**

# Mission Accomplished Through:

Science



Stewardship



Community



# AIS Pressure on Adirondack Waters

- 110 ADK waters known to have AIS<sup>1</sup>
- 820 ADK waters closely associated with roads<sup>2</sup>
- 100+ NYS DEC boat launches
- 30,000+ motorboats launched every year
- Boats coming from other ADK & NY waters, 40 states and 6 provinces (2,700+ other waters)

<sup>1</sup>data source APIPP 2021

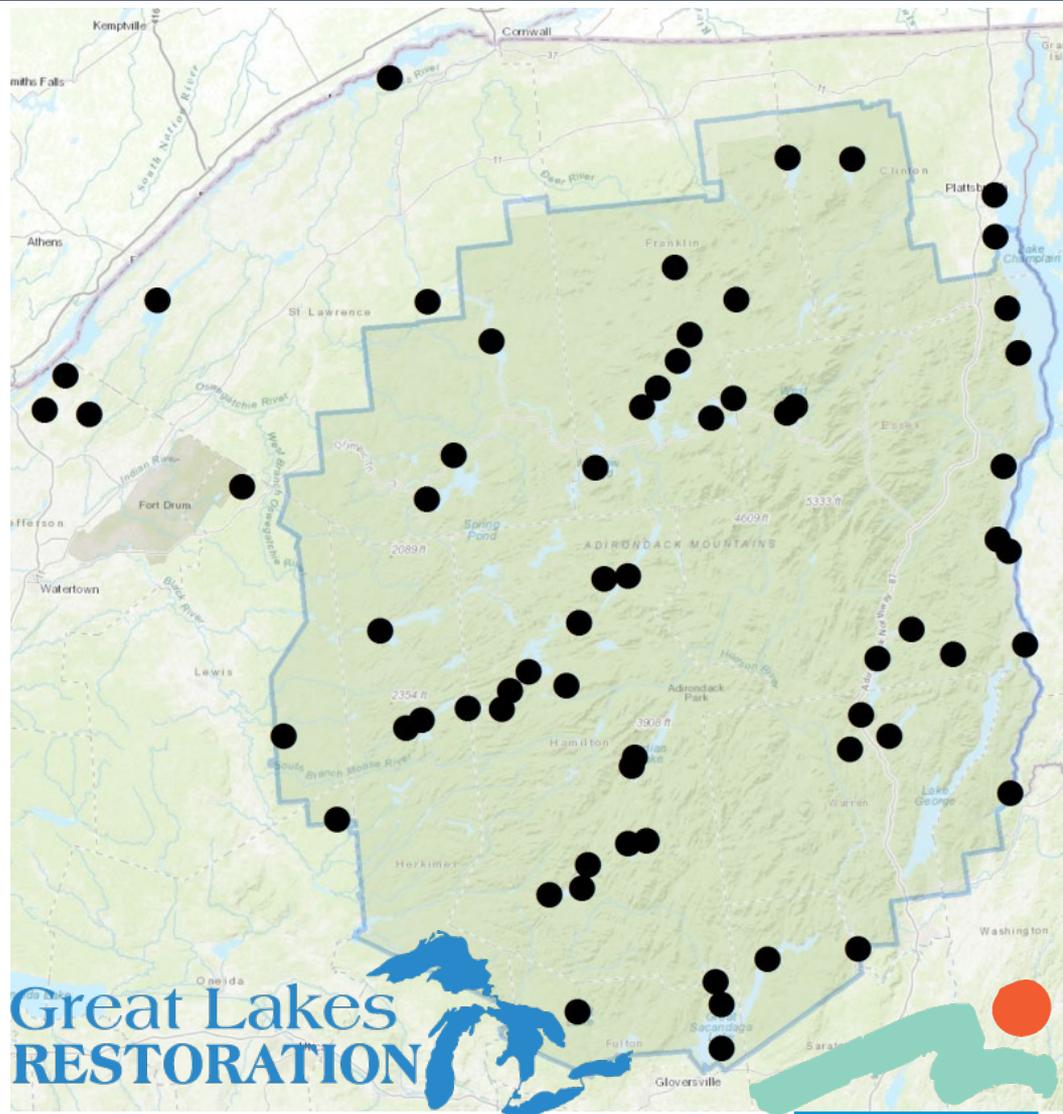
<sup>2</sup>Regalado & Kelting 2015

# AIS Spread Prevention in the Adirondacks

- 1998 Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program
- 1999 PSC established boat steward program
- 2004 State & federally funded programs (Lake Champlain Basin Program, NYSDEC)
- 2006 Adirondack Park ANS Management Plan
- 2016 NYS AIS Transport Law Implemented
- 2017 NYSDEC park-wide program

# Park-wide AIS Prevention Program

- 120 Stewards
- 46 launches (<50%) & 26 decon stations
- Memorial Day to Labor Day
- 5 to 7 days/week
- \$2+ million per year



Lake Associations & Towns



Department of Environmental Conservation

Lake Champlain Basin Program

# Boat Steward Duties - Inspection



# Boat Steward Duties - Education

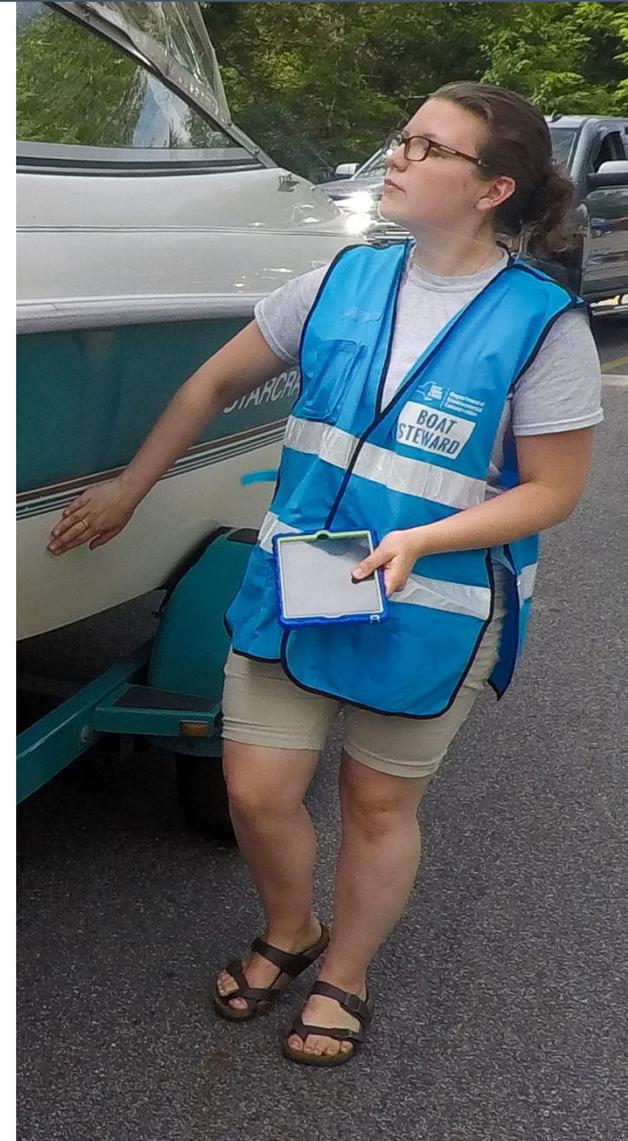


# Boat Steward Duties - Decontamination

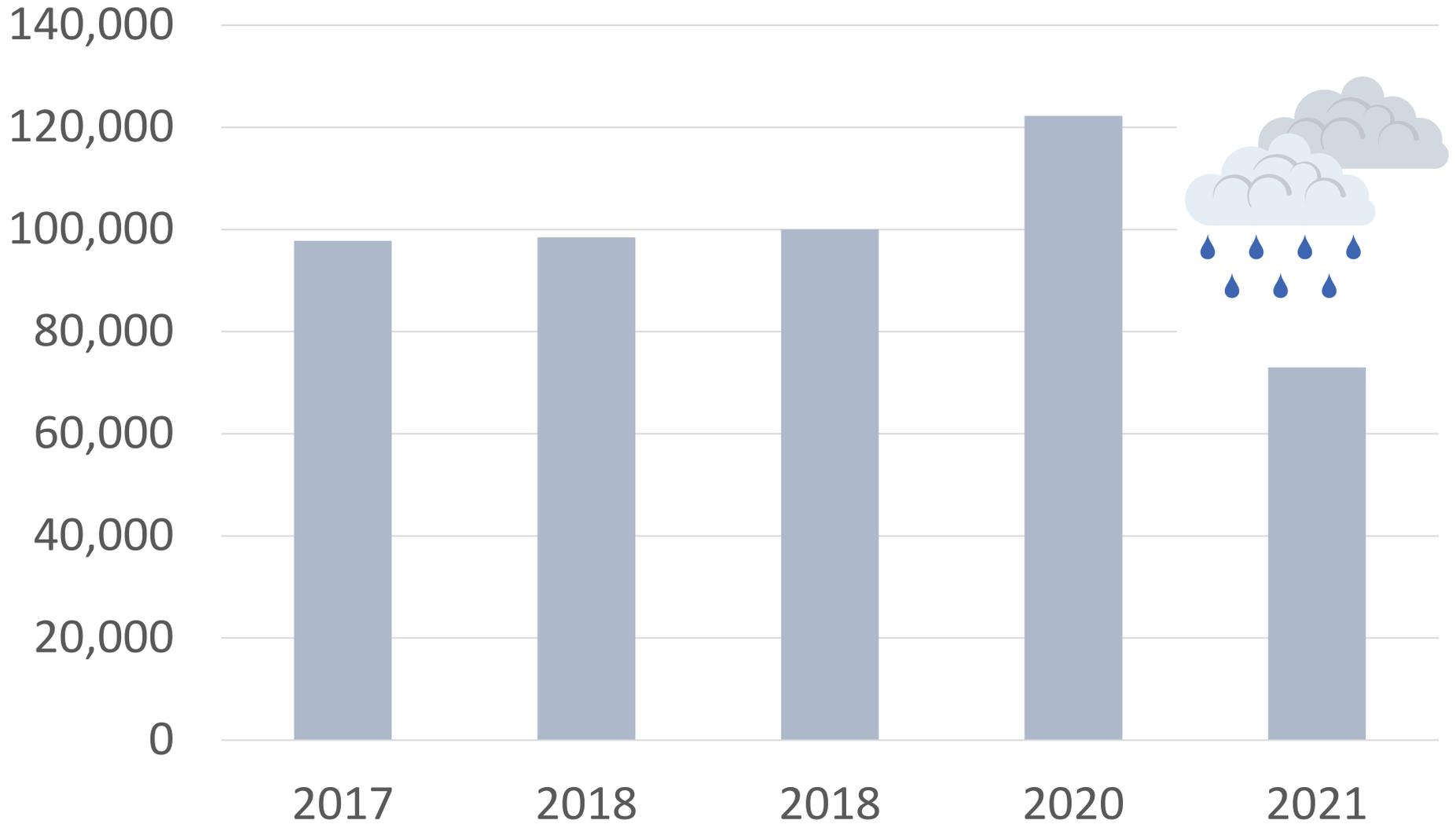


# Boat Steward Duties – Data Collection

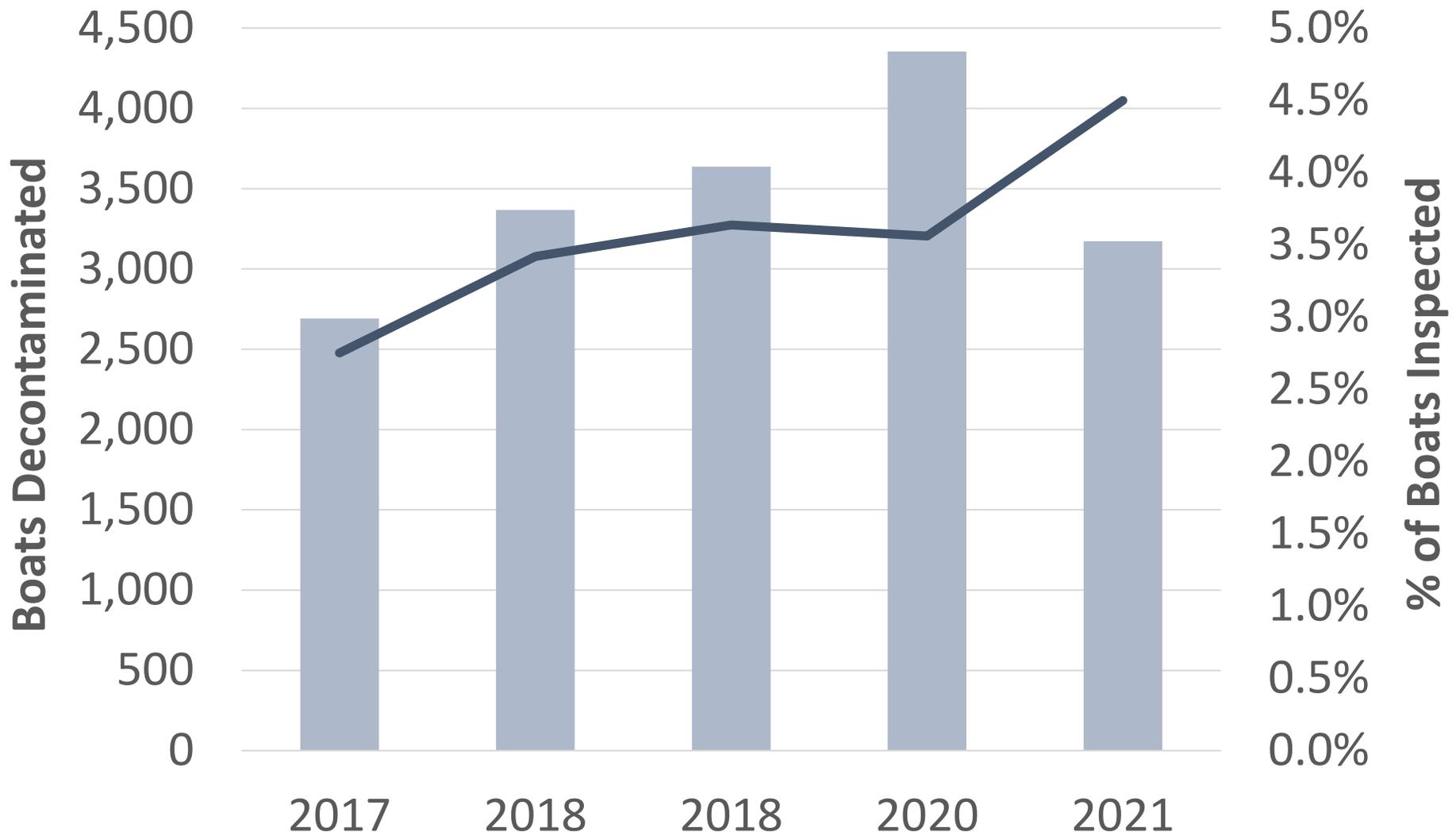
- Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Application (WISPA)
- Boat type & number of boaters
- Encountered a steward before?
- Where has your boat been in the last two weeks?
- Spread prevention measures?
- Organisms & AIS found



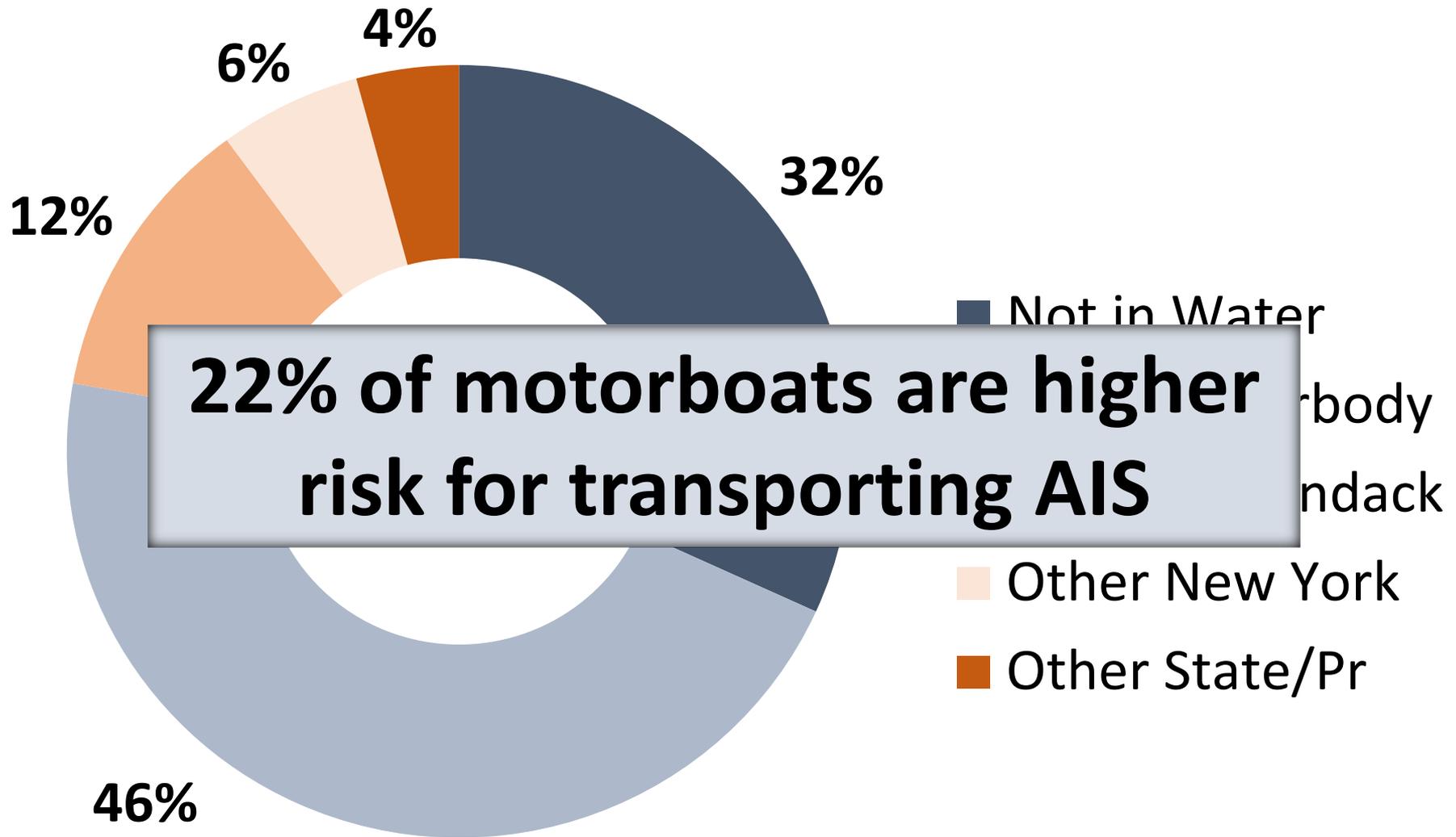
# Boats Inspected per Year



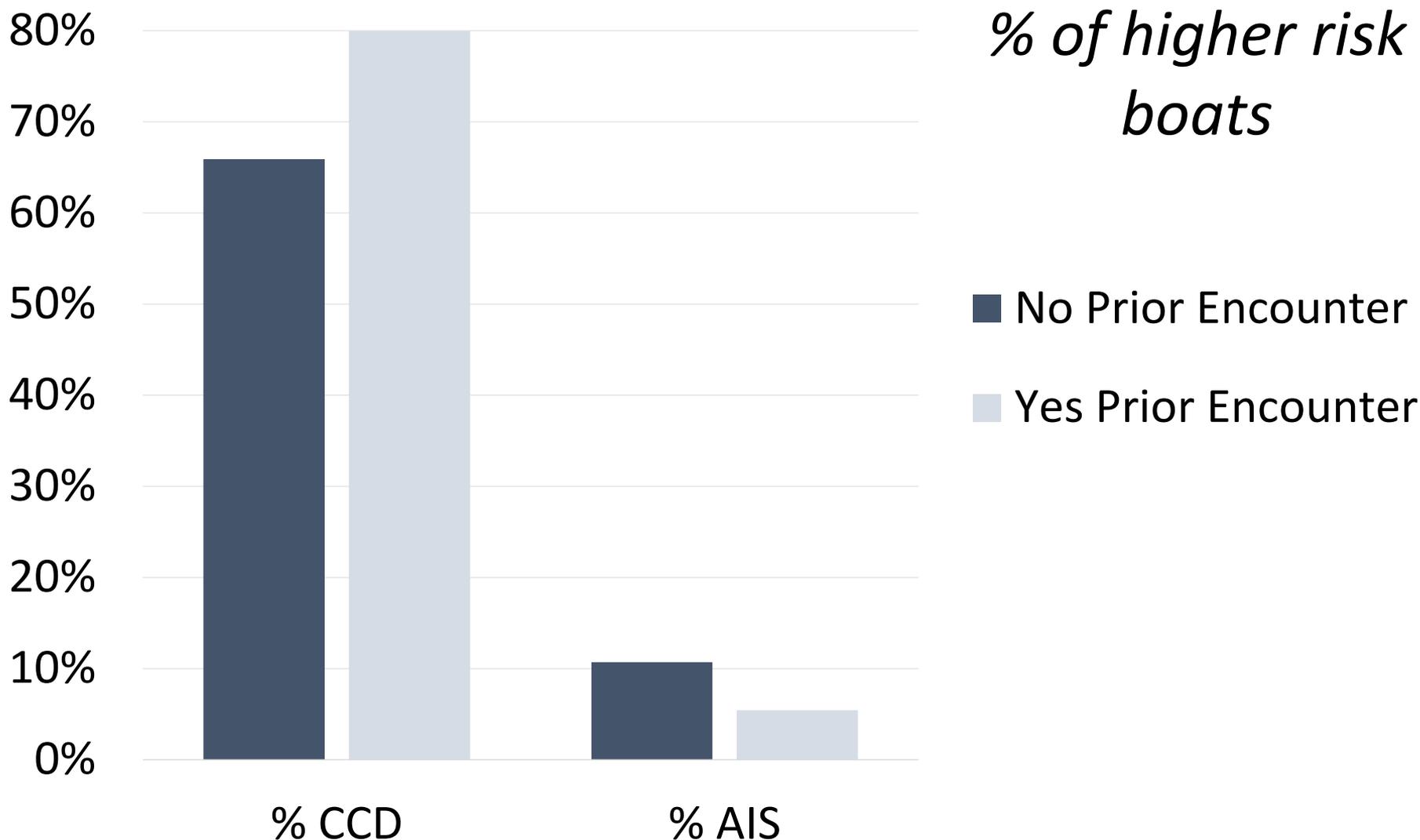
# Boats Decontaminated per Year



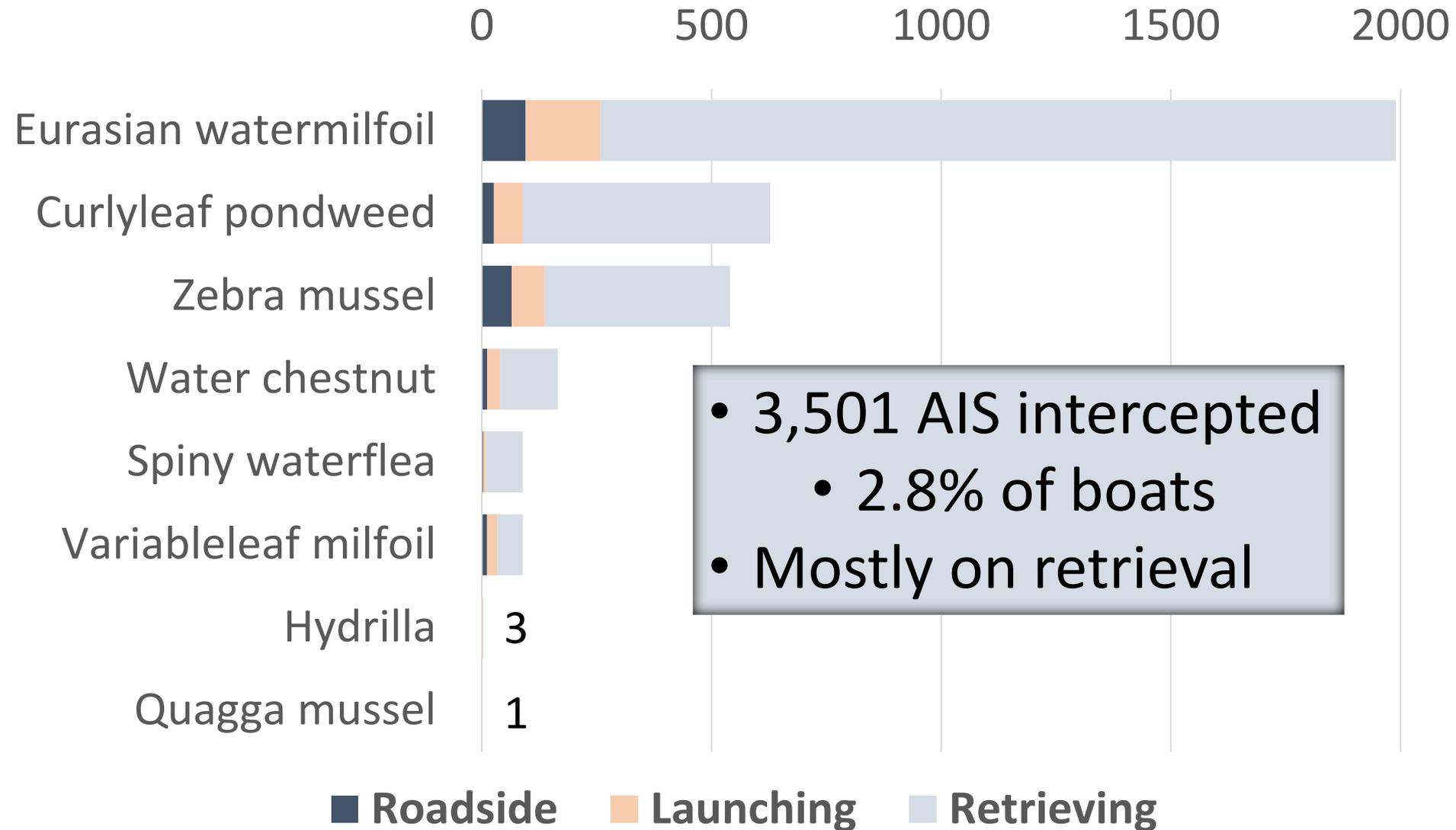
# Where has your boat been?



# Steward Encounters and AIS Prevention



# Aquatic Invasive Species Intercepted<sup>1</sup>



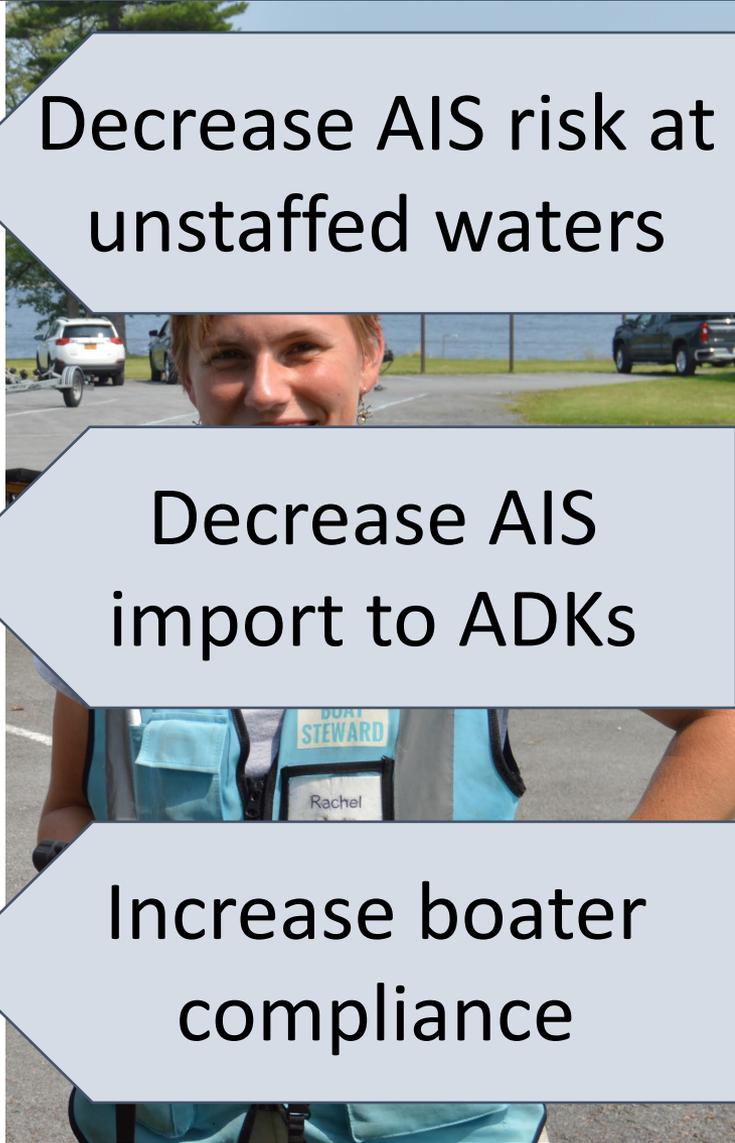
# Conclusions

- Majority of motorboats are low risk
- For others, stewards appear to enhance adoption of spread prevention strategies
- Boats must be inspected at launch and retrieval
- More problematic AIS are arriving in the Adirondacks



# Recommendations

- Consider ways to increase the educational impact of boat stewards
- Finish establishing steward programs across New York and in adjacent states
- Stage several high-profile education/enforcement actions on the transport law



Decrease AIS risk at unstaffed waters

Decrease AIS import to ADKs

Increase boater compliance

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