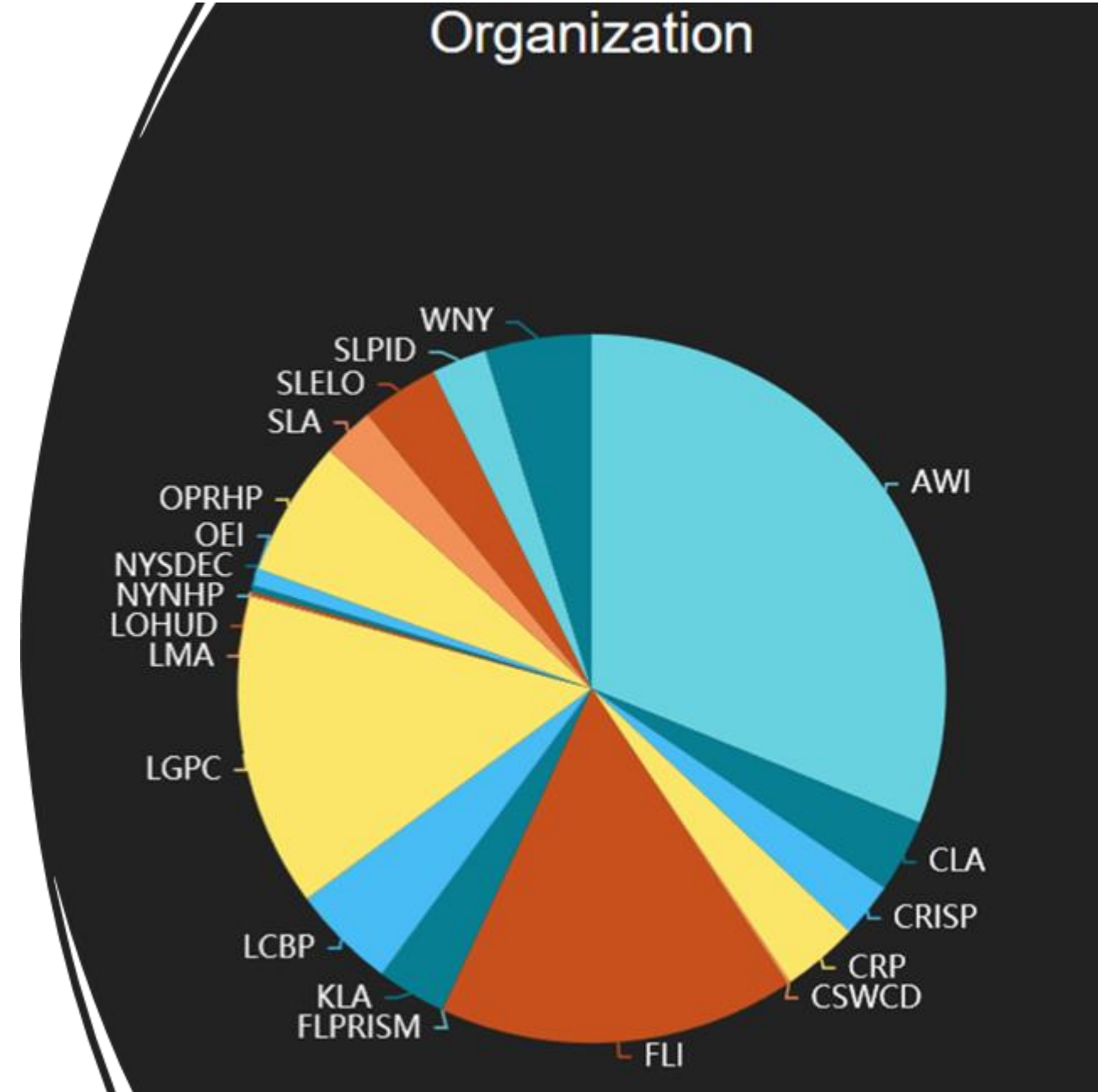


# Background WISP

- Supporting WISP has been a top priority to decrease the spread of AIS in the past decade
- 2015 NYS AIS management plan highlighted Educate and Outreach Immediate Action
- 2016 Law AIS Statewide Transport Ban for Watercraft (Part 576)
- 2018 WISP expanded regionally
- Certification in the Adirondack Park (Amendment to Part 576)



# Part 576: The Details

- Active since May 27, 2016
- Cleaning, draining, and treating (i.e. drying and rinsing) must be done before launching a watercraft into a public waterbody
- ECO's have discretionary authority to enforce law
- Watercraft and floating docks are exempt when relaunched from the *same* waterbody without having been launched in another waterbody



# Certification: Amendment to Article 9-1710 and Addition of 9-1711

- **Effective Area:** Adirondack Park and launch areas within ten miles of the Blue Line
- **Required Users:** boaters with motorized watercraft
  - Receive certification card from steward after inspection and, if needed, decontamination at locations covered by Adirondack Watershed Institute/NYSDEC
  - Can self-certify at home and bring self-certification document to launch

# Certification card training

- 100 trained steward trained annually
- 3-day training
- DEC has authority
- Department to offer training starting in the spring 2024
- Cert cards handed to public upon passing inspection, must meet CDD standards



# Why ADK

- Ecologically important
- 75% of water bodies have no AIS
- Local Support
- Government




# Certification Documents

## Self-certification Document

- Print out at home
- Take preventive measures
- Fill out and sign
- Bring to boat launch

## Certification Card

- Provided by steward upon inspection and, if necessary, decontamination



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Albany, New York 12233-4253

**Self-Issued Certificate  
For Watercraft Prior to Launch**

In accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 576, Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention, the watercraft listed below has been cleaned, drained, and dried and is free of visible plant or animal matter to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Name of Operator: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address, City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Motorized Watercraft – Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-motorized Watercraft

Canoe/Kayak

Other Watercraft, Dock (Describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Waterbody Watercraft is Launching into: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Launch- Month: \_\_\_\_\_ Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Duration of Stay: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that this self-issued certificate only authorizes the launching of this watercraft into the waterbody listed above after the watercraft has been drained and cleaned of visible plants and animals. I hereby affirm that under the penalty of perjury that the information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that false statements made herein are punishable as a Class A misdemeanor pursuant to Section 210.45 of the Penal Law.

Signature of Operator: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Resources

Clean, Drain, Dry webpage:

- self-cert document
- FAQ sheet
- interactive mapper for steward and decon locations, updating in 2024

Clean, Drain, Dry

PRINT | SHARE | TRANSLATE

## Visit Your Local Boat Steward

To help protect New York's waters, boat stewards are located at various boat launches throughout the state. Boat stewards are volunteers or paid members of your community who help protect New York State's waters. They assist visitors with a free boat inspection to look for invasive species and educate boaters on the importance of cleaning, draining, and drying watercrafts.

Since 2020, our boat stewards have:

- Educated more than 500,000 water recreationists;
- Inspected almost 350,000 watercrafts at more than 200 locations; and
- Intercepted more than 19,000 findings of aquatic invasive species

**New York State Boat Stewards are Entitled to Safety and Respect** - DEC and its partners are committed to maintaining a safe workplace, and ask the public to treat boat stewards with respect. New York State does not tolerate harassment of any kind. Stewards are directed to report inappropriate behavior or treatment by anyone at the boat launch locations. We encourage members of the community to help stop harassment - please report misconduct or harassment to DEC, partner organizations, or local law enforcement as appropriate.

### What to Expect When You Meet a Boat Steward

When you meet a boat steward they will:



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

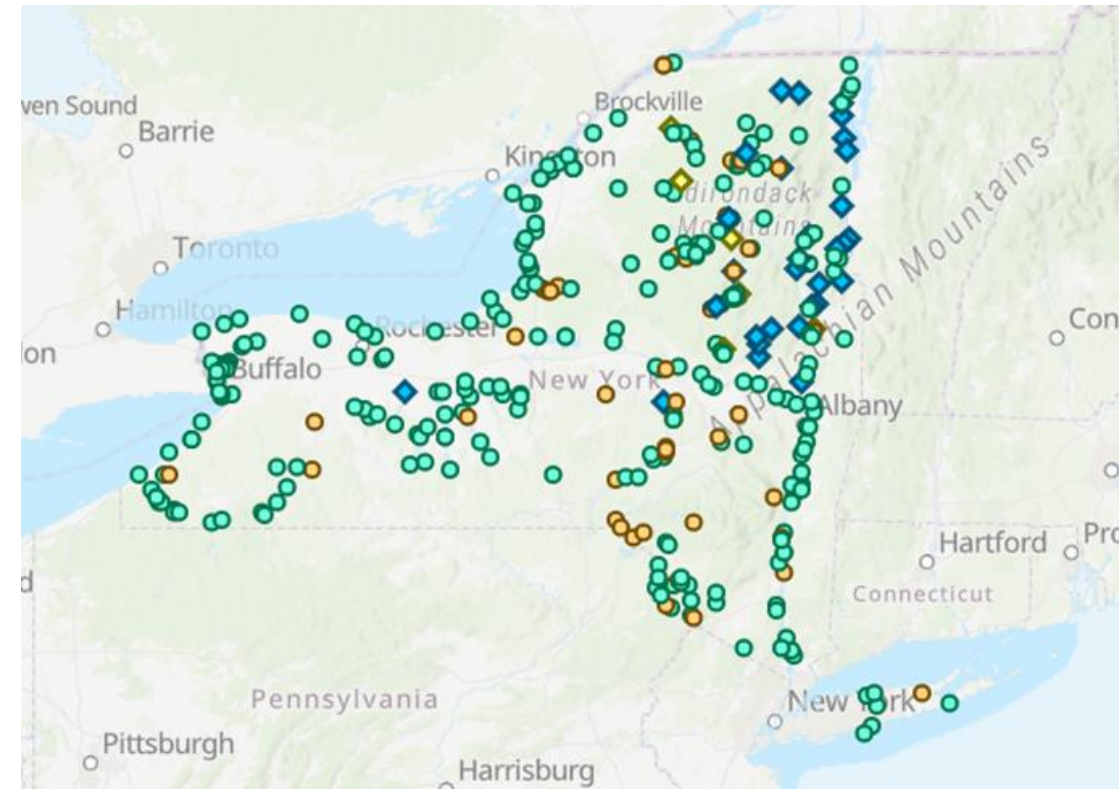
# Certification card

- Is it making a difference?
- Can't say definitively, but data has shown boater spread prevention has increased since amendment to part 576
- Geographic acceptance or more boaters being reached
- The program can be replicated anywhere
- The Department is willing to share all info with partners interested in cert program
- Challenges



# Prevention: Watercraft Inspection Steward Program (WISP)

- Coverage at more than 250 locations across the state
- 1,449,223 records
- 72,103 AIS interceptions
- 18,790 1<sup>st</sup> time interactions
- 8 regions



# Welcome center exit 18

- Set-up, logistics
- Cost to install turning lane, 2 buildings, catchment basin, water and electrical \$700,000
- Annual cost to maintain and operate \$85,000
- 1200 inspections, 300 plus decon



# Typical Decon Setup

- Shed for MHC/PHW - base price is \$2900 (ADK Storage Barns)
- Landa pressure washing unit \$7500
- 550gal water tank with valve and hose (when well/city water is not available) - \$1200 (one time purchase)
- Tools, attachments, PPE, cones, fire extinguisher - \$500 - (initial purchase, monitor and replace as needed)
- Site work, landscaping fabric, crushed stone - \$1500-4000 (one time purchase)
- Piloting on-demand units

