

# Adirondack Park Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention Program

Dan Kelting, Executive Director &  
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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

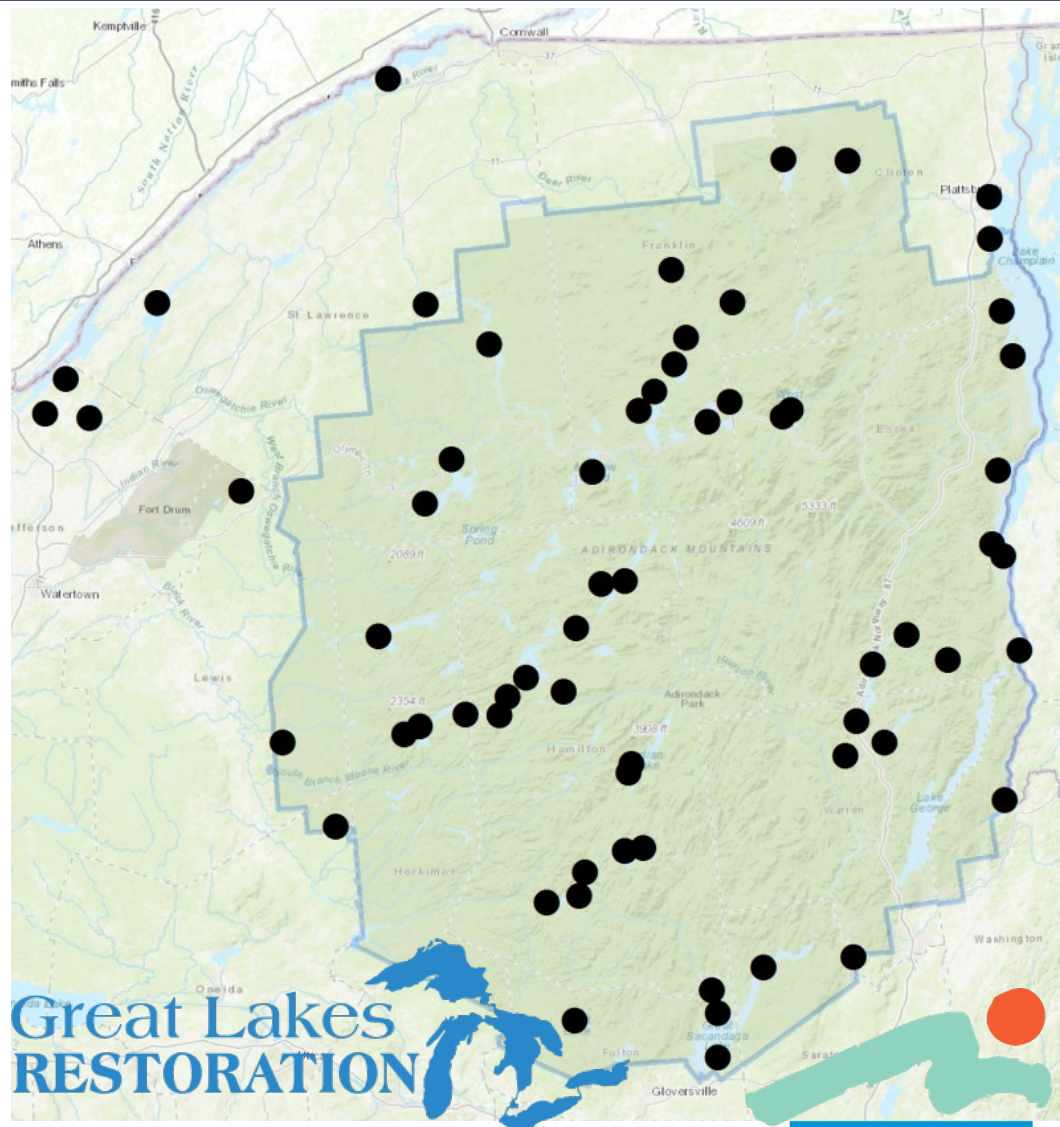
# AIS Spread Prevention in the Adirondacks

- 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





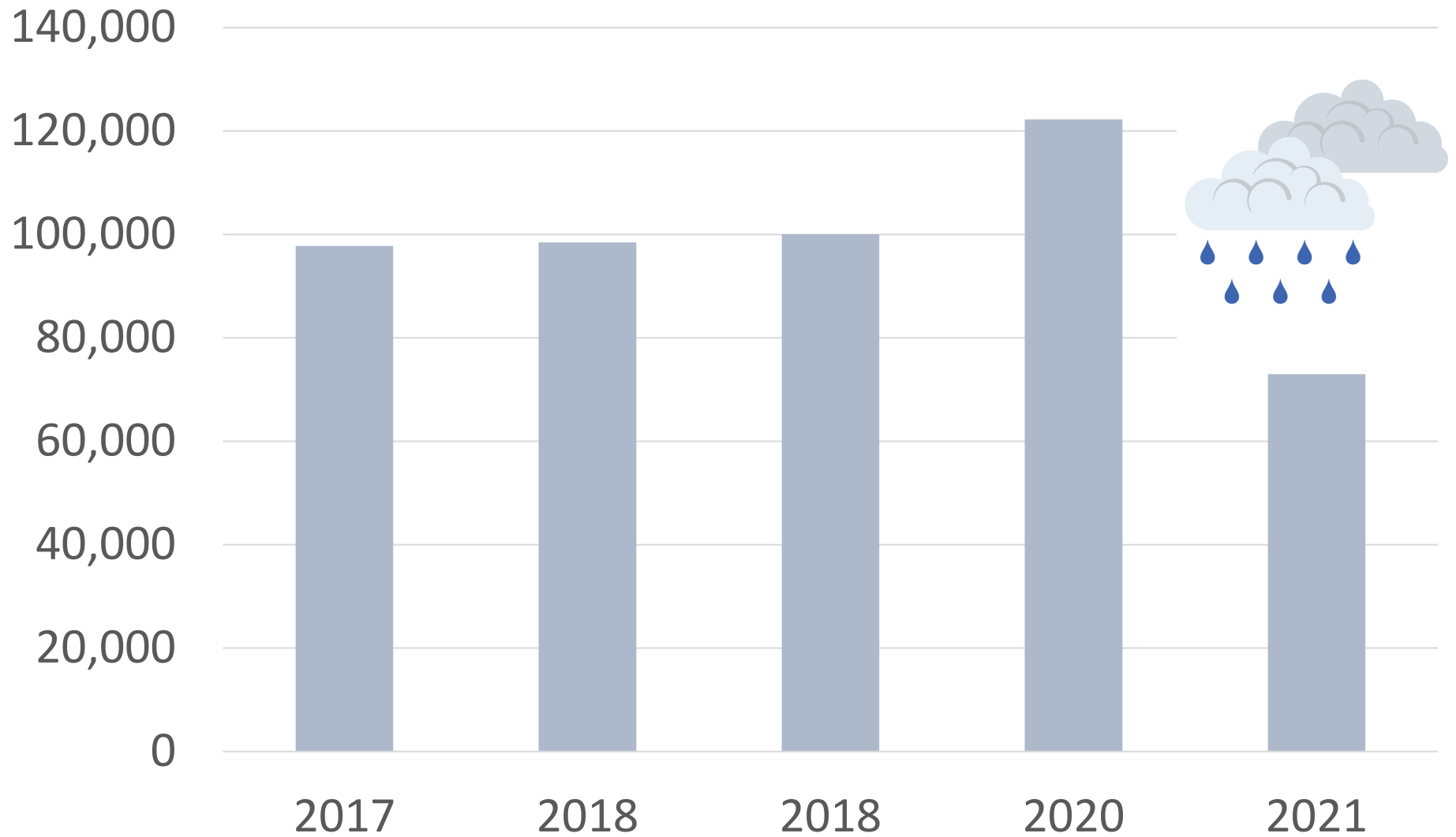
# Boat Steward Duties – Data Collection

- 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



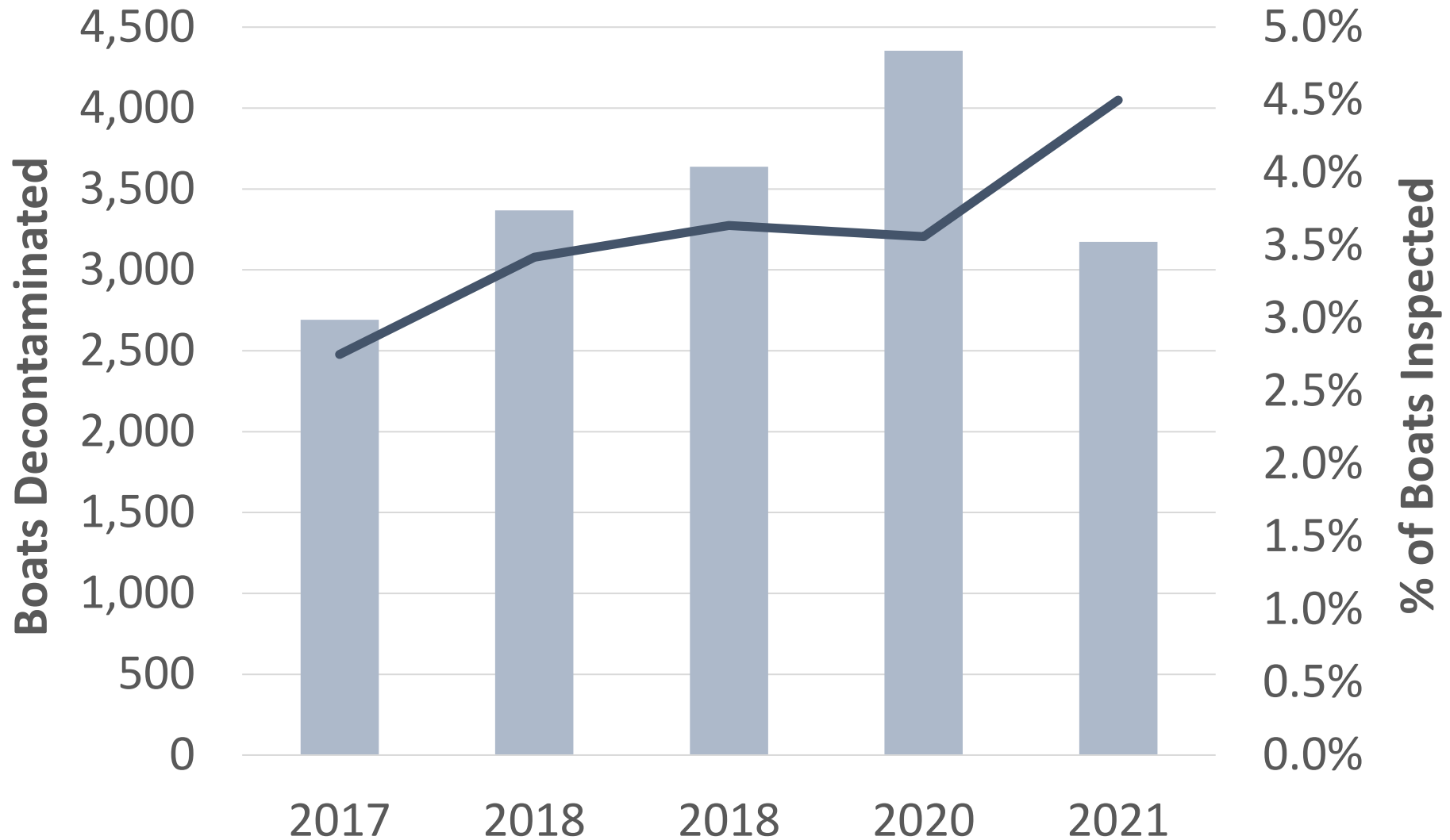


# Boats Inspected per Year



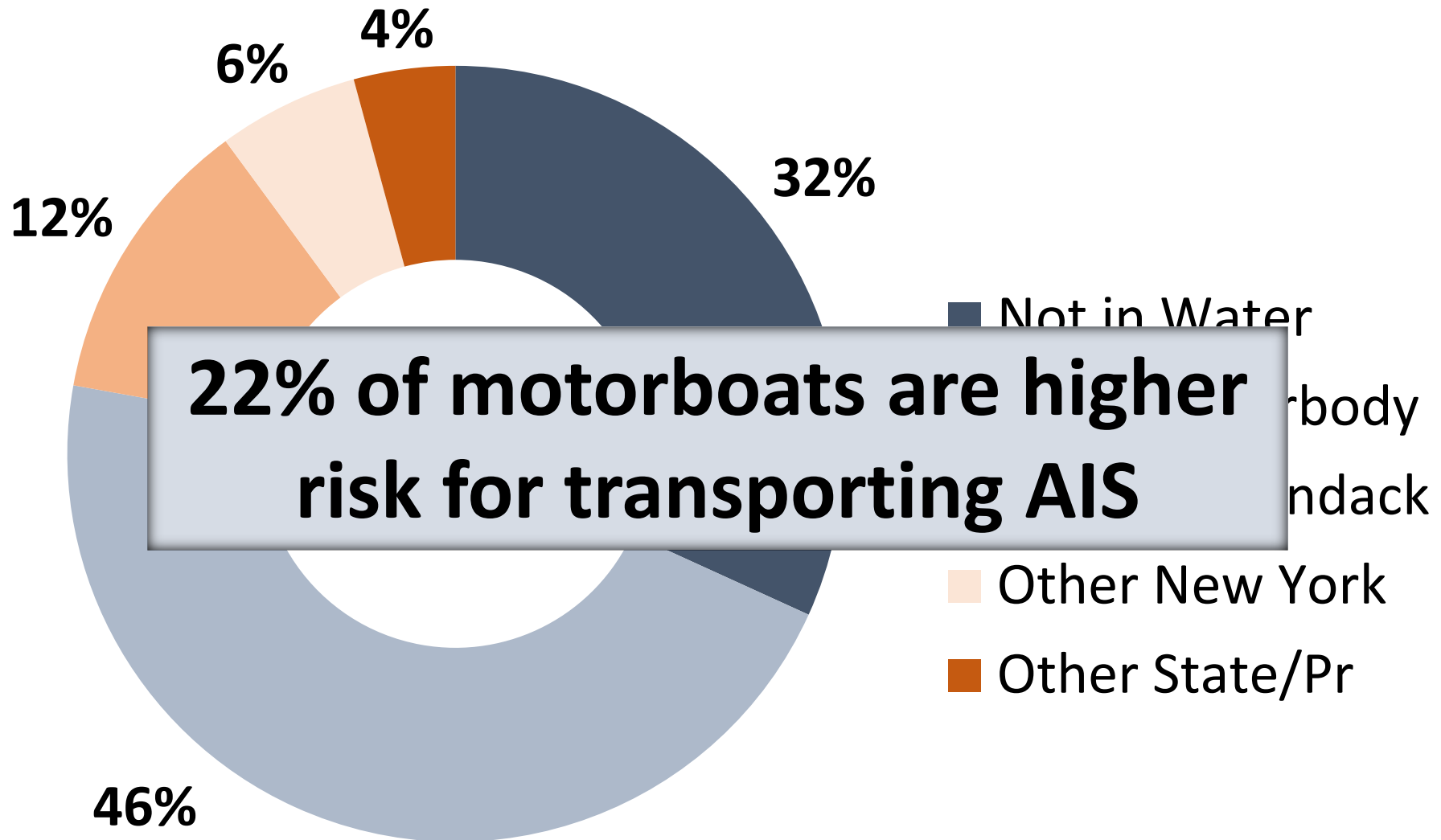


# Boats Decontaminated per Year



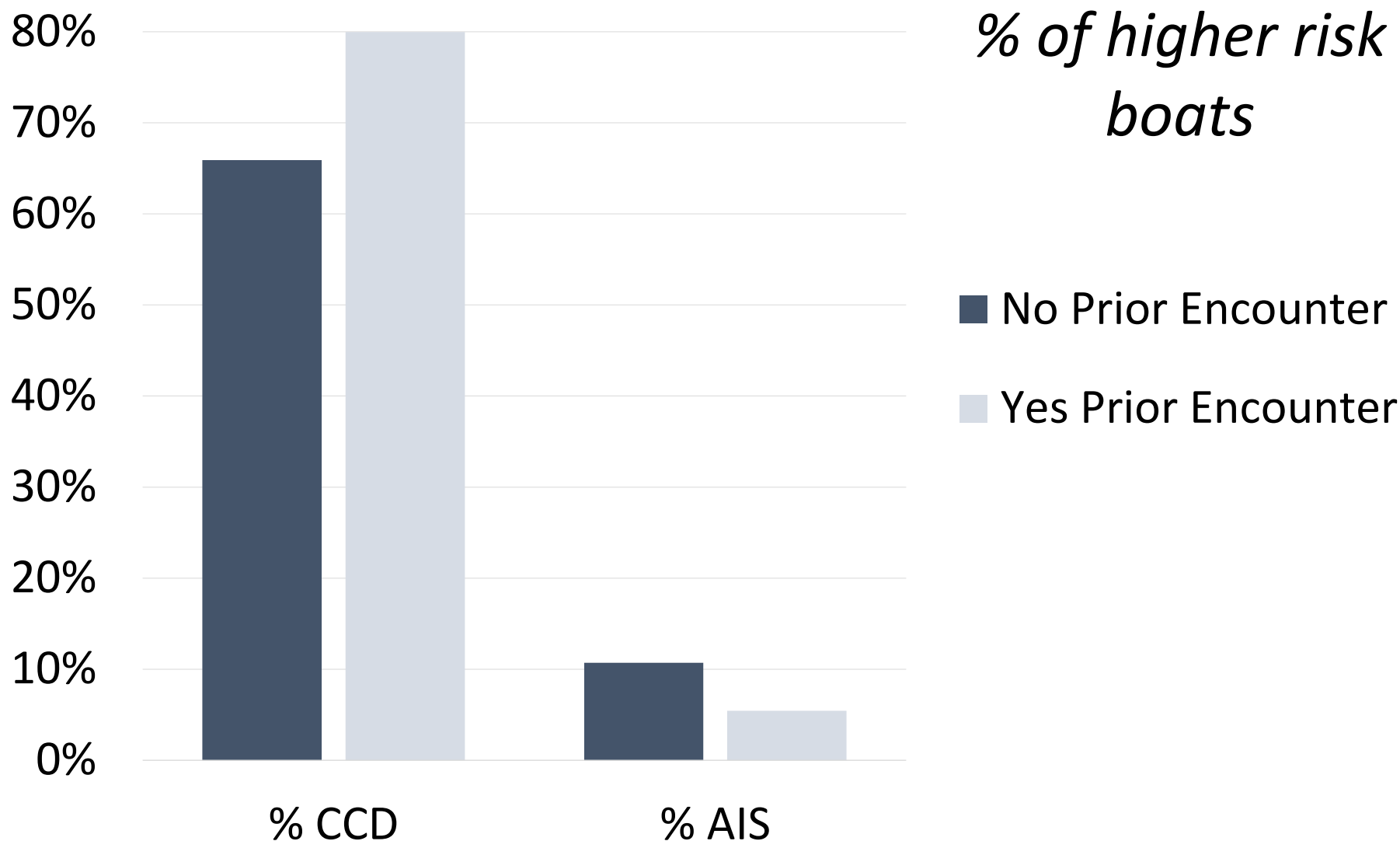


# Where has your boat been?





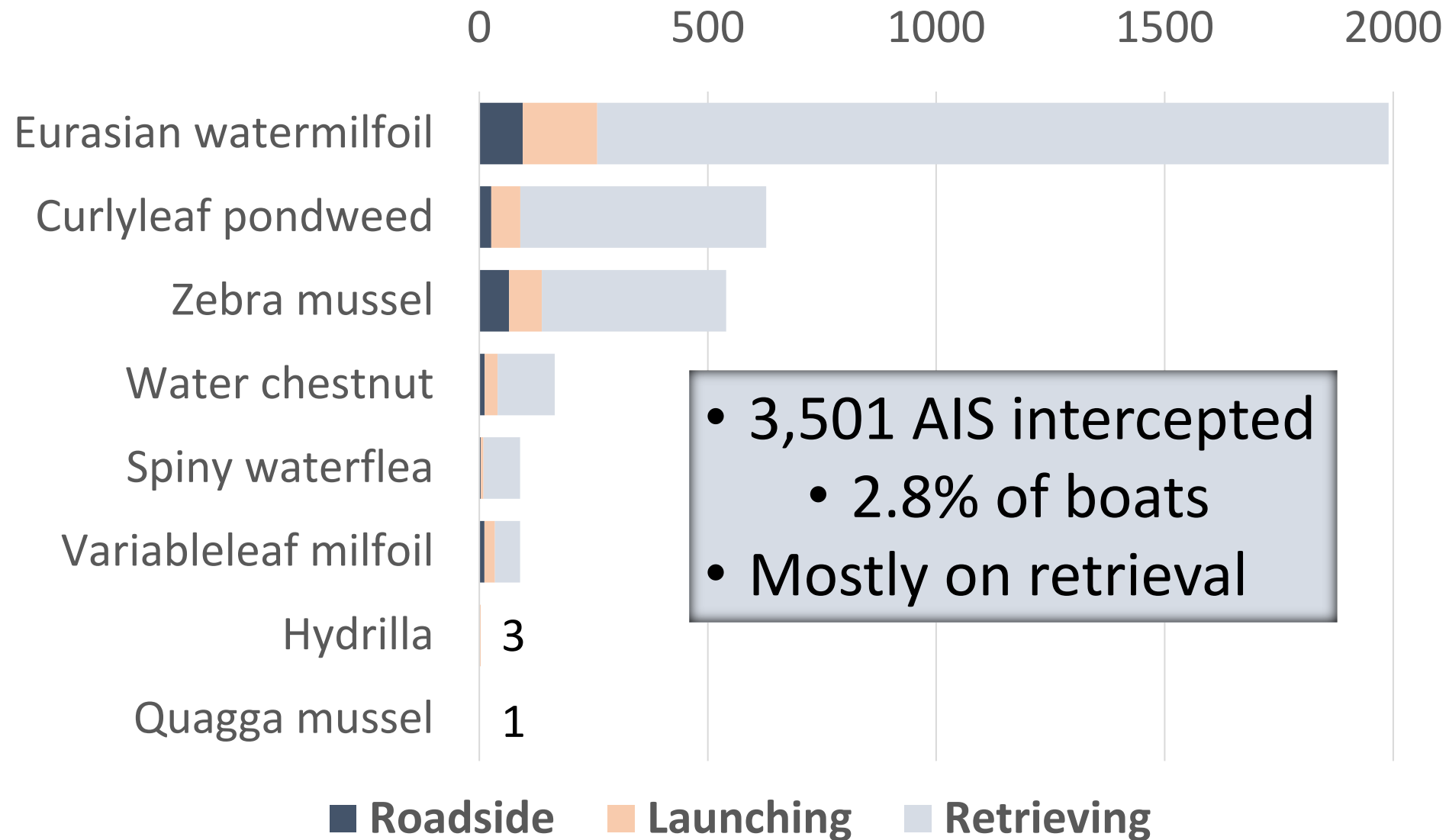
# Steward Encounters and AIS Prevention



Chi-Square p-values < 0.001



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





# Conclusions

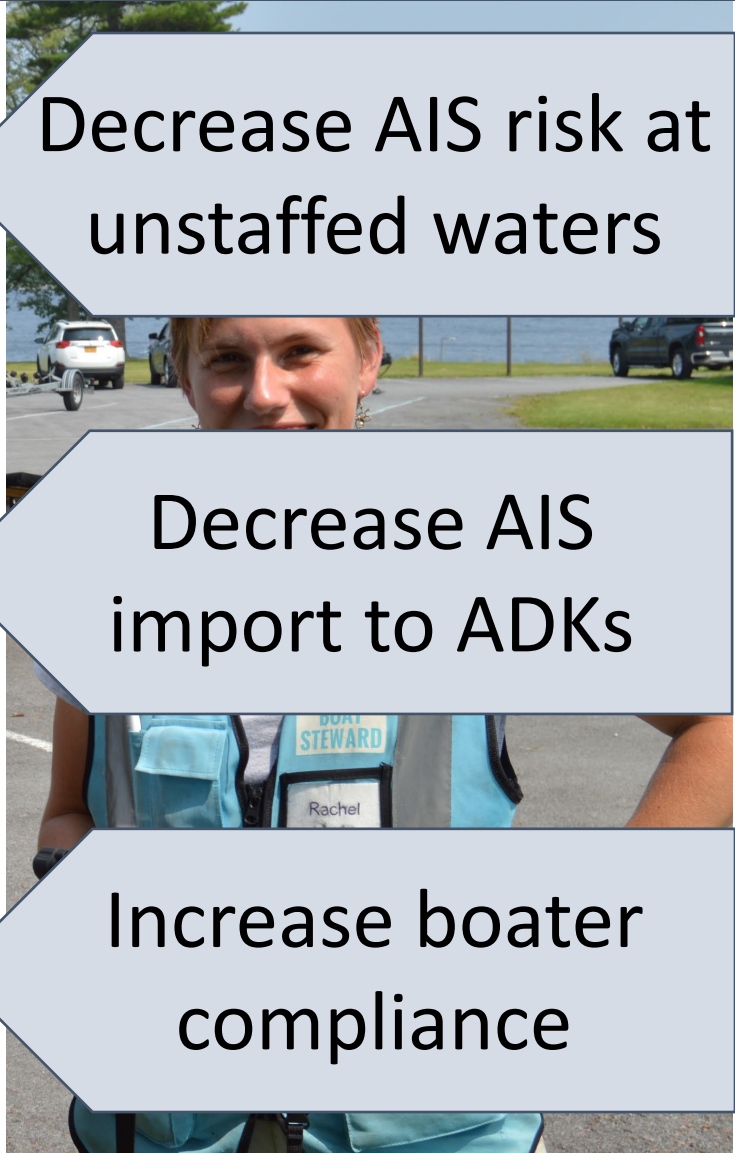
- Majority of motorboats are low risk
- For others, stewards appear to enhance adoption of spread prevention strategies
- Boats must be inspected at launch and retrieval
- More problematic AIS are arriving in the Adirondacks





# 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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