

Threats to Tahoe's Ecology: Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species are one of the largest threats to Lake Tahoe's ecology, water quality and clarity. The Tahoe Keys are ground zero for the infestation of invasive weeds at Tahoe, which have infected dozens of locations on every shoreline.



Murky, weed-choked water in the Tahoe Keys lagoons encourages toxic algal blooms, also pictured. July 2021.



League to Save Lake Tahoe

Tahoe Keys Initiative

Our holistic approach to TACKLE INVASIVE SPECIES

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TAHOE KEYS CONTROL METHODS TEST (CMT)

The CMT is an innovative program to identify a safe, long-term solution for the Lake's largest aquatic invasive weed infestation. Following unanimous approval from regulators, year one of the three-year CMT has been successfully completed, thanks to the League's leadership, funding and coalition-building.

2023 OBJECTIVE: Ensure year two of the CMT is implemented, which includes utilizing non-chemical methods to maintain reductions in weed biomass achieved in year one.



EXPANDING THE SAFETY NET WITH MARINA PARTNERS

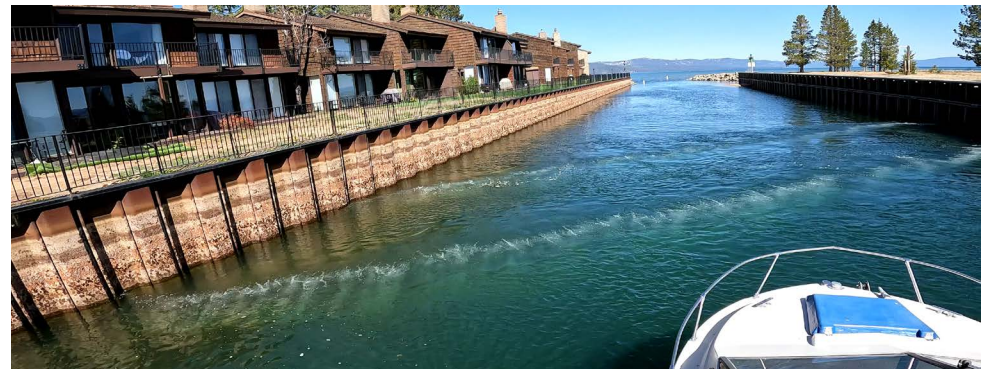
The League worked with agencies to formalize an Early Detection & Rapid Response protocol, and to codify it within the Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program. The EDRR is now a widely known resource to help tackle new infestations, especially in marinas where they are most likely to be found.

2023 OBJECTIVE: Increase outreach to marina staff, on-water businesses and their customers throughout the summer through on-site visits and improved educational materials.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF NEW INFESTATIONS

Bubble curtains are a useful tool for aquatic weed containment, first introduced to Tahoe by the League. We lead an interagency team that monitors and manages all bubble curtains in Lake Tahoe to ensure they are stopping plant fragments from spreading by boat and surface currents.

2023 OBJECTIVE: Optimize bubble curtain operations, monitor the curtains' effectiveness, and design and implement a pilot project of new technologies to supplement existing measures.



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