

Aquatic plants are an important component of a lake’s ecosystem, possessing many positive attributes such as food and cover for fish and other aquatic life. However, aquatic plants can become a nuisance when aquatic plants form dense stands, occupy large portions of a water body, and interfere with recreation or harm natural habitat. When nuisance conditions exist, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) will issue permits to manage nuisance aquatic plants, however requires the development of an Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP). When “managing” aquatic plants, it is important to maintain a well-balanced, stable, and diverse aquatic plant community that contain high percentages of desirable native vegetation.

As an operator of an aquatic plant harvester for Legend Lake, you should be familiar with your APMP and proper harvesting operations. Please see your lake manager for a copy of the APMP. Adhere to the following guidelines to ensure better harvesting practices that allow nuisance relief, but also are protective of aquatic habitat.

- 1. Maintain a copy of the DNR harvesting permit on the harvester at all times.**
- 2. The operator shall target nuisance areas of dense aquatic plant growth that interferes with significant boat traffic or other recreation. (See Map # \_\_\_\_\_)**
- 3. The operator shall operate the harvester into the wind whenever possible.**
- 4. The operator shall avoid harvesting within WDNR designated sensitive areas (See Map #) **buoys?****
- 5. The operator shall obey the following depth limitations**
  - a. Harvest only half the water column depth (see Map #\_\_), consider outfitting harvesters with depth locators and marking cutter heads with depth)**
  - b. Do not operate harvester in less than 2 feet of water**
  - c. If sediments are encountered, raise cutter head immediately**
- 6. The operator shall be able to chase floating mats of aquatic plants (“floaters”) provided they minimize the spread of fragments to the maximum extent practicable**
- 7. The operator shall not harvest water lilies or other floating leaved plants unless they pose a severe impediment to significant volume of boat traffic**
- 8. The operator shall discontinue harvesting in an area if moderate numbers of fish are found in harvested plants**
- 9. The operator shall learn to identify the following invasive aquatic plants (see fact sheet attached).**
  - a. Eurasian watermilfoil**
  - b. Curly leaf pondweed**
- 10. The operator shall report any new areas of aquatic invasive plant species or significant increases in abundances of these plants to the lake manager.**
- 11. List Additional Permit Conditions Here**

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*Notes:*

- 1. A copy of the DNR harvesting permit must be kept on harvesters at all times*
- 2. If you have questions on harvesting practices, the APMP, or the DNR permit, please ask your lake manager.*

