BUILDING STRONG®

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Habitat Alteration and Loss
- Can out-compete native eelgrass
- Potential loss of native wildlife habitat
- Unknown changes to aquatic ecosystem

Impacts to Wildlife
- Food chain foundation species declines
- Decreased foraging success of sight-feeding fish and aquatic birds
- Host species for cyanobacteria linked to deaths in bald eagles and other organisms

Flow Restriction
- Reduced water flow and river flushing
- Increased mosquito breeding success in stabilized water column

Water Chemistry Alterations
- Hydrilla decomposition, respiration, and shading decreases water column dissolved oxygen concentration
- Blocked water-atmosphere gas exchange
- Higher water temperatures
- Increased pH

Hydrilla-impacted marina on Connecticut River, 2020 (CAES)

HUMAN IMPACTS

Compromised Marina Functions
- Boating and mooring access
- Pump out and access to marina services

Loss of Waterway Usability and Recreation
- Decreased waterway navigability
- Boating, swimming, and recreation loss
- Fish production and fishing industry loss

Economic Losses for Tourism Business
- Tourism market estimated value of $120-$170 million throughout 5,000 – 7,000 jobs

Diminished Waterfront Home Value
- Impacts to the "Lifestyle Economy" which has estimated value of $450 million
- Restricted waterways increase flood risk

Compromised Infrastructure
- Drinking water source chemistry changes
- Hydropower plant and irrigation intake interferences
- Flood control infrastructure obstruction

CT River hydrilla mat, 2019 (CAES)

2021 (USACE)

Hydrilla on the Mattabesset River CT River Tributary, Fall 2020 (CAES)

If you have further questions on this project please contact:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
By email at: CTRiver-Hydrilla@usace.army.mil