

Connecticut River Hydrilla Fact Sheet

IMPACTS

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 5000-7000 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

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CT River hydrilla mat, 2019 (CAES)

2021 (USACE)



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