



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

July 30, 2025

Mark Robinson, Town Manager
Town of Fayette

Via email to fayette@myfairpoint.net

RE: Tilton Pond

Dear Mark,

Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive plants is a priority of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP's Invasive Aquatic Species Program (IASP) maintains a list of prohibited species, tracks infested waterbodies, and monitors and manages infestations of aquatic invasive plants in Maine. The DEP prioritizes infestations of aquatic invasive plants and manages infestations according to the level of infestation, the species to be managed, and the risk of spread. The following outlines how infestations are prioritized for management of invasive aquatic plants:

- **Eradication:** Eradication is the highest priority when considering the management of invasive aquatic plants. Eradication may be possible on incipient, localized infestations and will likely require multiple years of treatment.
- **Management for External/Internal Spread Prevention:** This is an infestation where the plant is not found throughout the waterbody but is established such that eradication isn't feasible. Management may occur to reduce the extent and density of an established infestation. Management goals are to limit the spread of invasive aquatic plants within the waterbody and to nearby waters.
- **Management for External Spread Prevention:** This is an infestation where the plant is established throughout the waterbody. Management may occur to reduce established infestation to allow for manual control with the objective of limiting the spread of an established infestation to other waters.

Swollen bladderwort (*Utricularia inflata*) was added to the list of prohibited aquatic plants in 2023. Since that time, eight waterbodies have been listed as infested with swollen bladderwort. The level of infestation among these waterbodies varies, as does the plan for management in each waterbody. There is limited information on managing swollen bladderwort. The IASP is monitoring two removal operations (Mousam Lake and Little Ossipee Lake) to determine whether hand removal and/or removal using a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester are effective means of control. In addition, the IASP is in contact with counterparts in other states to determine best management practices for swollen bladderwort. There

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are currently no known chemical applications that have been proven effective on the management of swollen bladderwort.

Tilton Pond is a priority for DEP and is currently being managed according to a Management Plan created by DEP's IASP, 30 Mile River Watershed Association, and residents of Tilton Pond. The current management strategy includes preventing spread to other waterbodies. This includes two fragment nets at, and just downstream of the outlet, which were approved by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Other actions being taken to prevent spread include increased surveys downstream by volunteers, 30 Mile River Watershed, and DEP. IASP staff plan to survey portions of David Pond the week of September 8th and will coordinate with 30 Mile on that effort. DEP is also engaging Department engineering staff to consider another potential plant screen upstream of the culvert on Jackmans Mill Road. Our staff will obviously need to coordinate with the Town of Fayette and Tilton residents on any additional spread prevention measures in Tilton.

Staff from DEP's IASP will attend the Basin David Tilton Ponds Association meeting on August 2nd. This is an opportunity for the public to ask questions about how DEP manages aquatic invasive plants and the current and future plans for management of swollen bladderwort in Tilton Pond. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John McPhedran at John.Mcphedran@maine.gov or 207-215-9863.

Sincerely,



Melanie Loyzim
Commissioner, Maine DEP

cc: John McPhedran, DEP