PROJECT STATUS UPDATE: 2019 CROTON HYDRILLA CONTROL PROJECT

REPORT DATE: 08/26/2019-09/06/2019 Prepared by: Nicole White, NYSDEC Invasive Species Coordination Section

Project Description: Hydrilla (monoecious) discovered 10/19/13 in Croton River. Surveys have been conducted annually since 2014 to delineate the hydrilla infestation in the Croton River as well as several high-risk sites within a 10 miles radius including the Hudson River and its tributaries. To-date, no hydrilla has been found in proximity outside the Croton River and the New Croton Reservoir. A five-year management plan was created to control Hydrilla in the Croton River. After successful treatments in 2017 and 2018, the treatment proposed for 2019 again involves the injection of the aquatic herbicide Sonar Genesis®, also known as fluridone, into the river just below the New Croton Dam and at Black Rock Park with a target concentration of 2.0-4.0 parts per billion (ppb) for 90-120 days.

Tasks Completed:

- Drinking water samples collected 8/26, 8/28, 8/30, 9/3, 9/4, 9/6
- Drinking water RESULTS: 8/26, 8/28, 8/30, 9/3: Fluridone levels all below 1.0 ppb and listed as "Normal"
- Drinking water samples 9/4, 9/6: still at lab
- Tanks refilled 8/27, 8/30, 9/5 by Licensed applicator (Units also inspected 8/26, 8/27, 8/28, 8/29, 9/2, 9/4, 9/6)
- Antenna work at Dam 8/27, 8/28 to improve communications while Verizon tower is down for maintenance (no disruption of treatment)
- Submersed Aquatic Vegetation (SAV) surveys have been completed at 14 high priority Hudson River sites – this is an early detection effort for hydrilla in sites that are in proximity to the Croton River and have suitable habitat characteristics for hydrilla
- Hudson River Day – outreach event @ Croton Yacht Club 9/7
- 79 days of treatment have been completed (65% of 120 day goal). 8.5 raindays. Treatment scheduled to end 10/16/19.

Upcoming Tasks 09/9/2019-09/20/2019		
Task #	**Description**	**Lead**
1	Continue fluridone treatment (2-4 ppb for 90-120 days) of entire Croton River	ISCS/SOLitude/SePRO
2	Post water quality sampling results to webpage	ISCS- McGlynn
3	Complete SAV sampling in 15 remaining Hudson River high priority sites	SOLitude Lake Management
4	SAV Survey in Croton Bay via Airboat (week of Sept 18th)	SOLitude Lake Management
5	Begin Croton River SAV Surveys	SOLitude Lake Management

Internal Group Members: Nicole White, Catherine McGlynn, Anthony Lamanno, Cathy Ahlers, Bill Rudge, Justin Perry, Josh Thiel

Support: Brenan Tarrier/Dan Kendall (DOW), Lloyd Wilson/James Leach/Jim Hyde (DOH), Wendy Rosenbach (R3 CPS)

Croton Hydrilla Control Project Page: **https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/106386.html**