

## Lake Champlain Basin Program – NEIWPCC Aquatic Invasive Species Boat Launch Steward Field Assistant

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**Hours:** 40 hours per week, Thursday – Monday; not to exceed 1000 hours

**Duration:** Mid-May to Labor Day 2025, with the potential to extend to Mid-October

**Background Information:** NEIWPCC is a regional commission that helps the states of the Northeast preserve and advance water quality. We engage and convene water quality professionals and other interested parties from New England and New York to collaborate on water, wastewater, and environmental science challenges across the regions, ecosystems, and areas of expertise.

**Location of Job:** Field Assistants will work at various public boat launches around the US-portion of Lake Champlain. Field Assistants will generally be assigned to launches closest to their place of residence. Field Assistants will regularly travel around to various Lake Champlain boat launch sites to check in on and mentor stewards, collect specie specimens, and maintain decontamination units.

**Compensation and Benefits:** Field Assistants will be paid hourly at a rate to be determined based on the experience of the selected candidates. Benefits are not provided with the exception of social security, unemployment and workers compensation insurance, sick leave as determined by the state of Vermont, and the elective deferral portion of the 403(b) plan. NEIWPCC is committed to the professional development of our interns and employees. This position is contingent upon NEIWPCC's receipt of federal funding authorized for this program.

**Job Description:** Field Assistants will be trained to greet visitors to Lake Champlain and familiarize the public with aquatic invasive species information, enter lake-user information on mobile tablets, and inspect watercraft, trailers, and recreational equipment for aquatic organisms. Field Assistants will also be trained to conduct hot water high pressure watercraft and equipment decontaminations as needed and to set up, operate, break down, and properly store the decontamination units. Field Assistants will be required to work eight-hour days for approximately forty hours per week Thursday through Monday and holidays at select boat launches around Lake Champlain from Memorial Day to Labor Day weekend with the opportunity to work until mid-October; weekend work is required. Time off by prior arrangement can be accommodated. Additionally, the Field Assistant will mentor new boat launch stewards, support field operation and decontamination unit maintenance, and help collect specie specimens for identification.

### **Skills/Interests Needed:**

- Excellent communication skills, with prior experience working with the public preferred.
- Strong organization skills.
- High level of motivation and enthusiasm.
- Demonstrated skill in collecting and recording data and using tablets.
- Physical ability to crouch and reach under watercraft and experience working outdoors.
- Knowledge or experience with the basics of boating, angling, and common outdoor recreation equipment.
- Experience operating watercraft and/or motorized equipment and experience with basic small engine maintenance and repair are desired for watercraft decontamination operation.
- Environmental science courses and/or familiarity with the aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Lake Champlain and methods used to prevent further spread of AIS is highly desirable.
- Valid driver's license

**Additional Information:** Successful candidates will be required to attend paid training anticipated to occur the weeks of May 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

*For more information about the Lake Champlain Basin Program, visit [www.lcbp.org](http://www.lcbp.org). For more information about NEIWPCC, visit [www.neiwpc.org](http://www.neiwpc.org).*