

# Surveillance camera will help look for invasive species at Raquette boat launch

By OLIVIA PEPE  
 For the Enterprise

A new kind of surveillance camera will soon help protect Raquette Lake from aquatic invasive species.

Pat Deyle, steward of Raquette Lake, said the boat launch there will be the first in New York state with a camera called I-LIDS, which stands for Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor. He and other Raquette Lake property owners secured the camera with a \$16,000 grant from The Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Chapter.

I-LIDS will be on duty when boat launch stewards are away.

"It will watch the boat launch to make sure the invasive plants don't travel," Deyle said. "I think we're a test site for this camera."

Invasive plants like Eurasian watermilfoil are commonly found on trailers, but they can also be found on the underside of a boat, inside on the carpet, on the bait panel or on fishing gear. Deyle said he and his workers have been inspecting boats for the last five or six years, but "people are always in a hurry."

The I-LIDS system will now play an audio message

camera.

"Stewards are ideal because it's people interacting with people," he said. "I-LIDS will never have that human touch and never be able to respond appropriately to the public's questions."

But he does think that this test site will prove useful.

"I commend the Raquette Lake property owners for trying something to benefit the Adirondacks," Holmlund said.

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whenever launchers go by it.

"It explains how to inspect and clean the boat," Deyle said.

Meanwhile, I-LIDS will capture video recordings of boats so stewards can check for signs of any aquatic invasive species.

Eric Holmlund, director of the Watershed Stewardship Program, said that while his Paul Smith's College stewards are at the Raquette Lake boat launch, they are not involved in the I-LIDS pilot project this summer.

"(The stewards) have their own projects to do, but if everything goes right with this project, then they might be involved with it next summer," Holmlund said.

Holmlund is unsure of the public's reaction to the I-LIDS

