



SCENARIO: MANAGING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (PART 1 – PREVENTION)

Setting the scene

Change may be on the horizon for the lake. How can you prevent negative consequences and build resilience?

As a group, read the scenario below, then **discuss**:

5 minutes: How might the lake change if an aquatic invasive plant entered the system?

5 minutes: What actions could you take to prevent these changes?

Record your thoughts to share with the group.

Scenario

The lake association is committed to maintaining healthy habitat for fish and wildlife, to ensure good fishing and birdwatching. In the news, you've been seeing reports of Eurasian watermilfoil in your region. This invasive aquatic plant can form dense beds that displace native species, alter habitat and water chemistry, and reduce recreational access.

Consider

- What changes in the watershed could make the lake susceptible to Eurasian watermilfoil?
- If Eurasian watermilfoil were to spread into the lake, what sorts of effects could it have on the ecosystem?
- What actions could your organization take to prevent a watermilfoil invasion?

Remember to think about short- and long-term changes (*slow and fast variables*), and how impacts from other lakes, lake organizations, and management groups (*cross-scale linkages*) could shape changes in the lake.