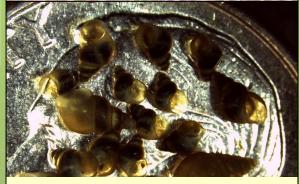


Red-Eared Slider



Purple Loosestrife



New Zealand Mudsnail



Tracking Invasive Species with Pennsylvania iMapInvasives

Mary Walsh and Amy Jewitt
Western Pennsylvania
Conservancy
March 14, 2015

Invasive Species – Non-native organisms that cause harm to the environment, economy, and human health

Carolina Fanwort
Photo credit: Brian Pilarcik, CCCD



Purple Loosestrife
Photo credit: Cumbria Wildflowers



Round Goby
Photo credit: Glogster.com



Common Reed
Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons





Multiflora Rose
Photo credit: depauw.edu



Quagga Mussel Photo credit: Amy Benson, USGS



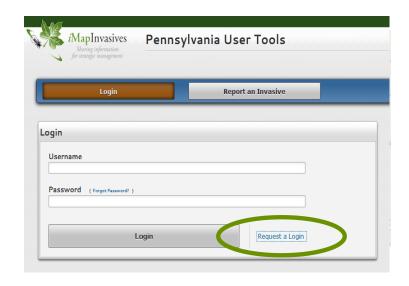
DidymoPhoto credit: Tim Daley, PA DEP



Japanese Barberry
Photo Credit: FNA Nature Search

What is iMapInvasives?

- An on-line mapping database used for tracking location information on invasive species
- Used as a resource to visualize where invasive species are located
- Tool for natural resource professionals working to manage invasive species
- Available to anyone by signing up for a free user account



http://www.imapinvasives.org/paimi/login

What is iMapInvasives?

- Currently being utilized in PA as well as the following states/province:
 - NY, OR, AZ, FL, VA, VT, WV, NH and Saskatchewan
- Facilitates early detection and rapid response
- Used to store and retrieve your data (points & polygons; presence and absence)
- Download as "csv" or geodatabase

Who is it for?

- Natural resource professionals
- Citizen scientists
- Land trusts
- Watershed associations
- State agencies
- Schools and volunteer groups
- *Anyone with an interest in invasive species*

Tools for Natural Resource Professionals

Assessments provide detailed information about an observation

Surveys are a planned search of an area to determine the presence or absence of specific invasive species

Treatments are actions taken to control an invasive species population



Tools for Natural Resource Professionals – Treatment Records

Treatments are actions taken to control an invasive species population

Steps to create a Treatment record

- 1. Draw polygon around treated area
- 2. Fill in information fields, some of which are highlighted below:
- <u>Treatment types</u>
 Barrier, Bioagent, Chemical Fire, Mechanical/Manual, etc.
- <u>Targeted Species</u>
 Single or multiple species
- <u>Treatment goals</u>
 Eradication, Containment, Suppression, Experiment, etc.
- Who Lead contact, paid/volunteer crew, crew size
- Observations Affected
- <u>Treatment Start/End Date</u>

Pennsylvania Invasive Species Management Plan Goals (PISC 2009)

- Early Detection and Rapid Response:
 Detect new introductions of nonnative invasive species and control or contain target species before they can become permanently established in the Commonwealth or move into areas in which they previously did not exist.
- Survey and Monitoring: Expand survey and monitoring efforts of nonnative invasive species in Pennsylvania.
- Data Management:
 Develop a statewide invasive species database
 clearinghouse or information sharing system linking data
 from various state, federal, and non- governmental entities.

Pennsylvania Aquatic Invasive Species Plan (PISC 2006)

- Priority strategy:
 - Establish a **simple**, **coordinated reporting system(s) for AIS** detection and monitoring in Pennsylvania (Strategy 3D and Strategy 5B).
 - Establish a comprehensive process to **identify the aquatic invasive species of greatest concern** that are not yet present in Pennsylvania waters (Strategy 2A).
- Priority action:
 - Engage those conducting field work to be aware of key invasive species that they may come across. Conduct training for field staff to ensure that they can easily identify aquatic invasive species. Implement a statewide monitoring network to assist in the early detection and monitoring of aquatic invasive species (Action 3B1).
 - Partner with AIS management programs in nearby states to share data and coordinate management activities. Pay special attention to "upstream" and "downstream" neighboring states to prevent AIS introduction and spread (Action 1C1).

What are the Benefits of iMap?



European Frog-bit
Photo credit: Christian Fischer, Wikipedia



Japanese Mysterysnail Photo credit: B. Lathrop, DEP

- Invasive plant and animal data for Pennsylvania
- Quality controlled
- Data sharing (online accessible)
- Publicize invasive species & tracking
- Bring together agencies and organizations w/ invasive species interests
- Inform policy, planning and control efforts
- Work with regional and national tracking efforts by collating PA data

Benefits – Early Detection & Rapid Response

- Serves as a source of invaluable EDRR info
- Info on EDRR species can come from both professional and public sources, all captured in iMap
- Email alerts serve as a tool to notify interested individuals of EDRR species present in the state/county/specific area



New Zealand Mudsnail
Photo credit: Robyn Draheim, Center for Lakes and Reservoirs

Benefits - Data Sharing

- Invasive species clearinghouse for data across all of Pennsylvania
- Place to organize and share data with others, both internally and externally
- Alleviates the issue of data being captured only in handwritten notes, individual computers, spreadsheets, etc.



Common Reed
Photo credit: Michael St. Jean,
Flickr photographer

iMapInvasives Partners





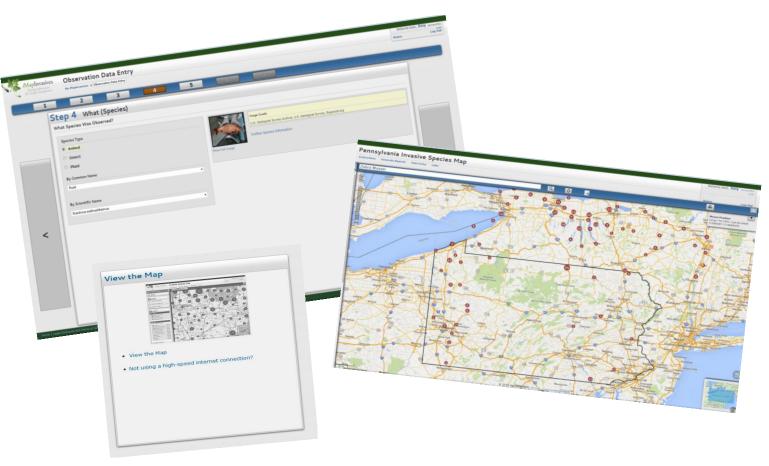
Funding for PA iMapInvasives is provided by the USFWS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Brand new PA iMapInvasives Homepage

- Contains info about iMapInvasives as well as invasive species
- Highlights include a Gallery of Invaders, Invasive Species in the News, Reference Guides, and more!
- Questions or comments about iMap? Click on the "Contact Us" tab to email or call us.

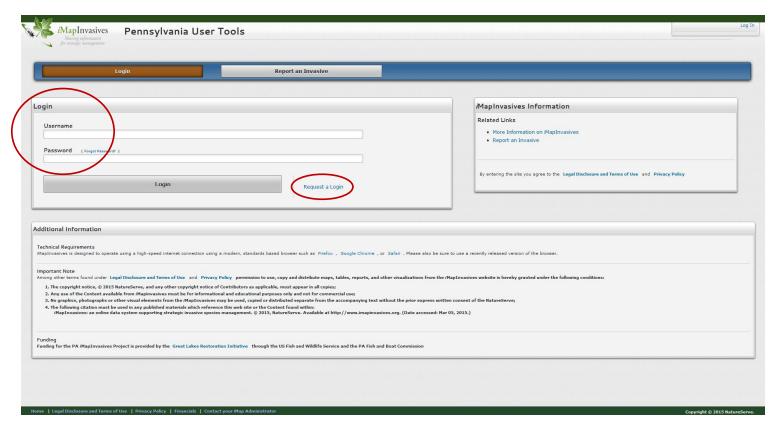


http://www.naturalheritage.state.pa.us/paimap.aspx

Overview: Entering and Querying for Data

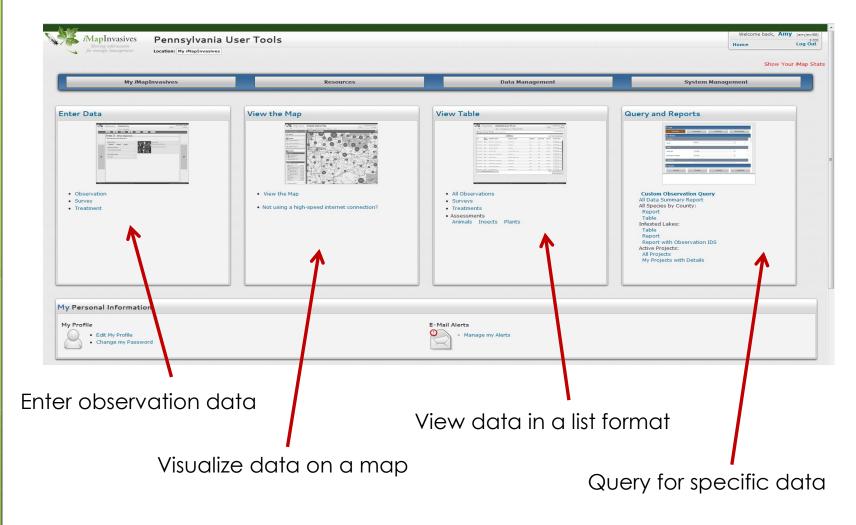


iMapInvasives Login Page



Enter Username & Password or Request Login if accessing for first time

Main Navigation Page

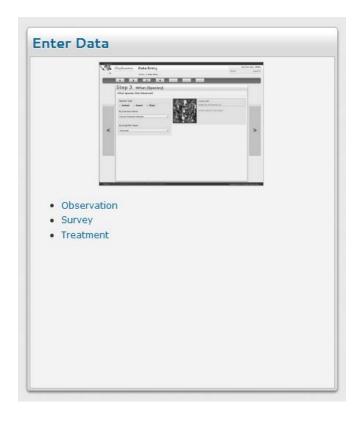


5 Different Record Types Available

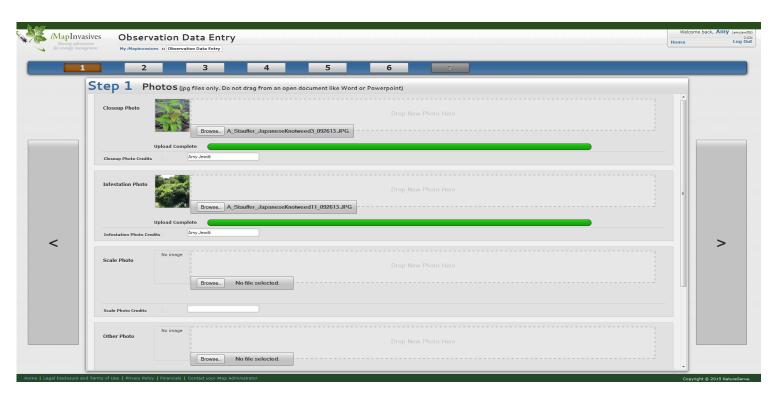
- Observation report of a specific species, at a certain place, on a specific date.
- Assessment provides detailed information about an observation. This can include the intensity of infestation, damage caused by the organism, and details about the surrounding area.
- Survey a planned search of an area to determine the presence or absence of specific invasive species.
- Treatment an action taken to control an invasive species population.
- Infestation Management ties together all the info about a managed population over time.

Entering an Observation

- 7-step process
- Simple and easy to use
- Good for entering small amounts of data (1-50 records)
- Bulk datasets can be sent to the state administrator for loading (50+)

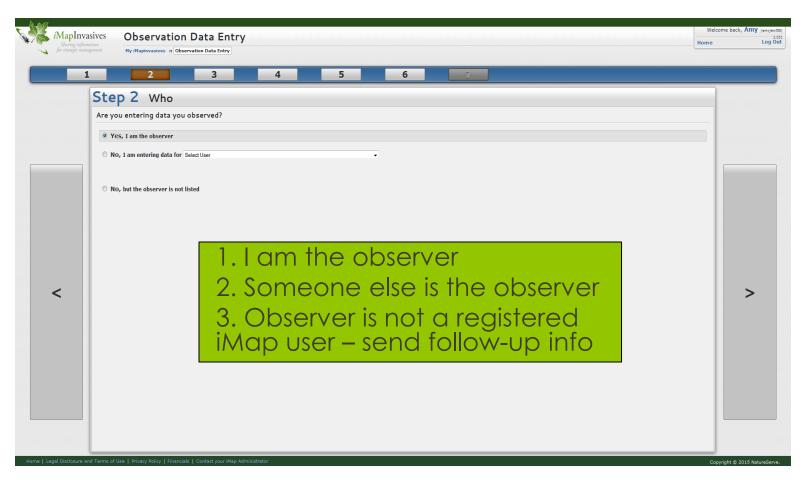


Step 1: Adding Photos and Photo Credits

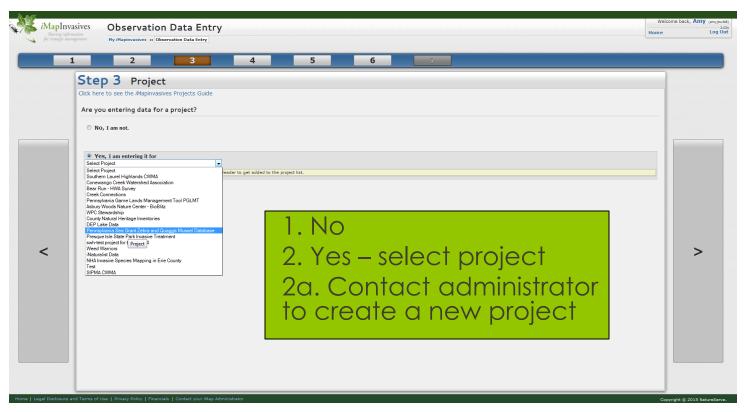


Five categories of photos: Close-up, Infestation, Scale, and Other (2)

Step 2: Who is the Observer?

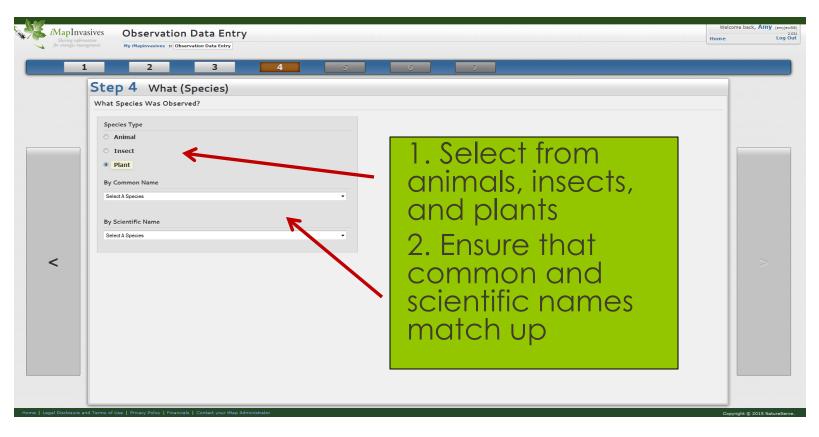


Step 3: Is this Data part of a Project?

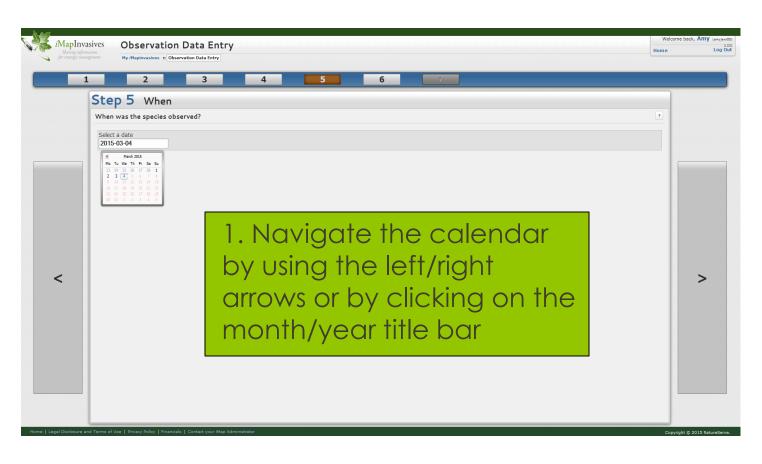


Projects provide a way to group data for faster and easier querying

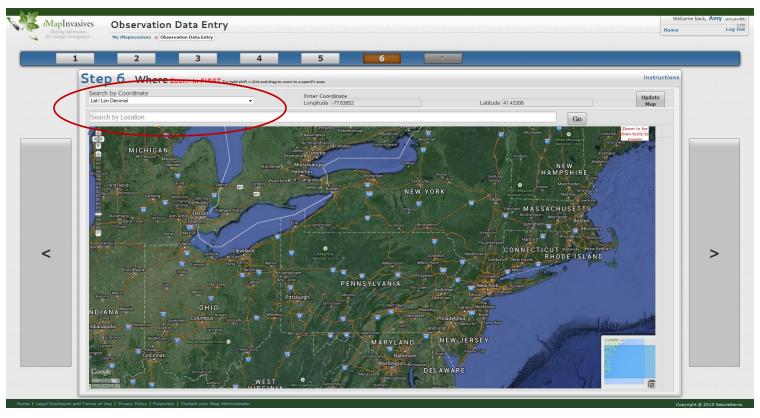
Step 4: What Species was Observed?



Step 5: What is the Observation Date?

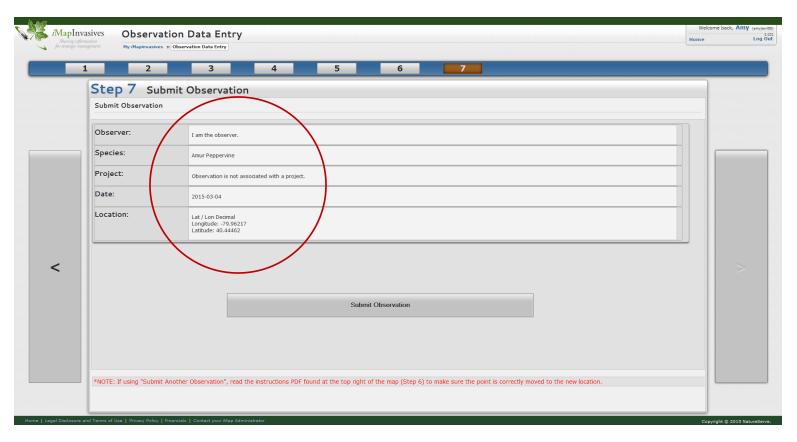


Step 6: What is the Location?



Search by entering coordinates, a specific address, or location name

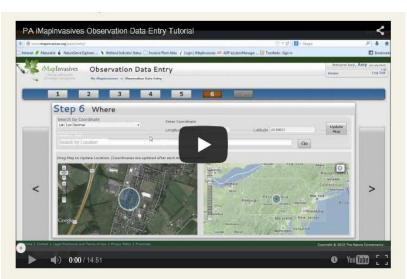
Step 7: Summary Page



Check accuracy of observation data before submitting

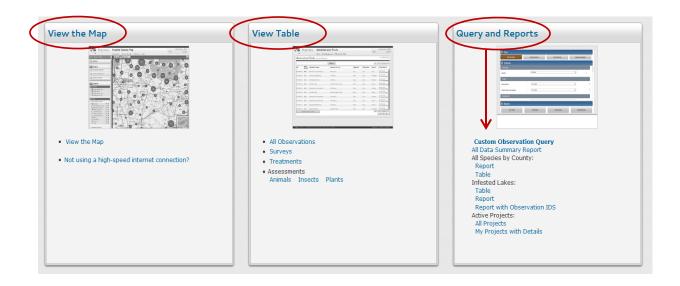
Observation Data Entry Training Video





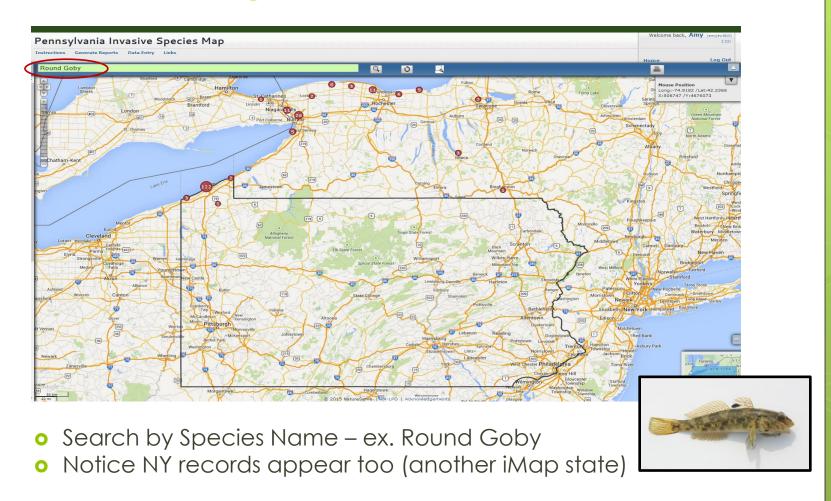
View PA iMap training video for additional info on how to include more details to an observation record, available on the Homepage and YouTube.

Querying for Data



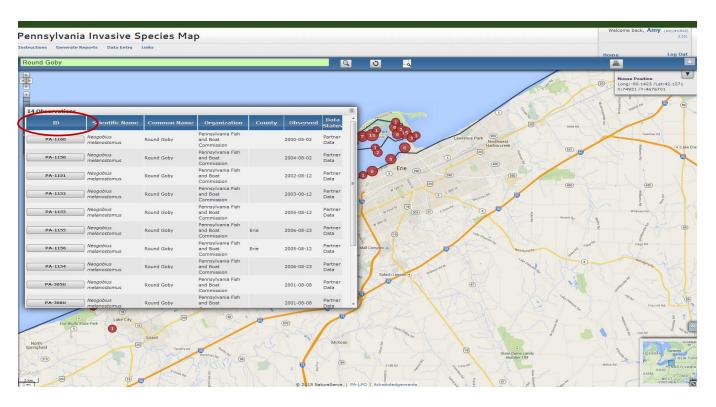
Choose to query for data using the <u>Map</u>, the <u>Table</u>, or create a <u>Custom Observation Query</u>

Custom querying guide available on Homepage

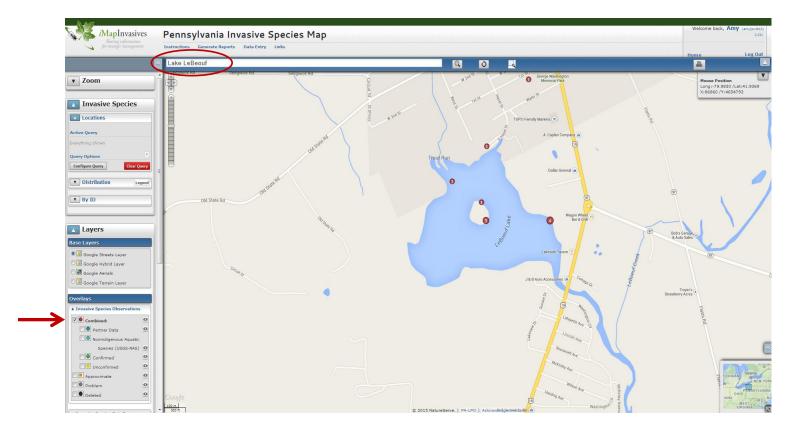




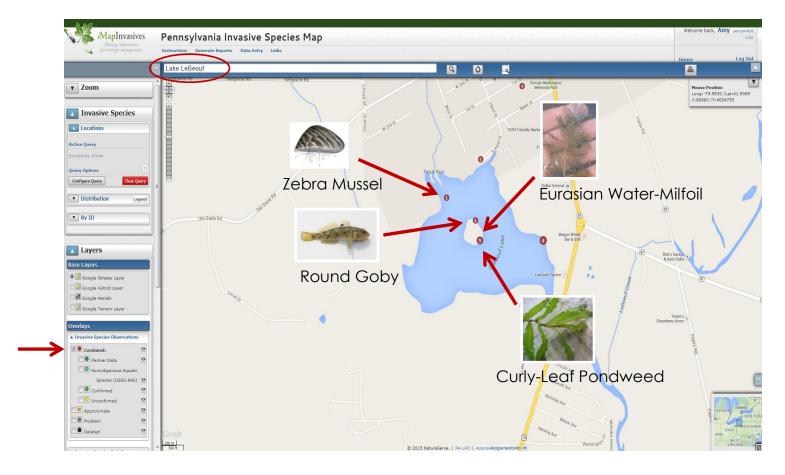
- Zoom in to see more precise locations of records
- Notice numbers in circles get smaller as you zoom in



- Click red circles to view associated observations
- ID #s link directly to specific record and related details

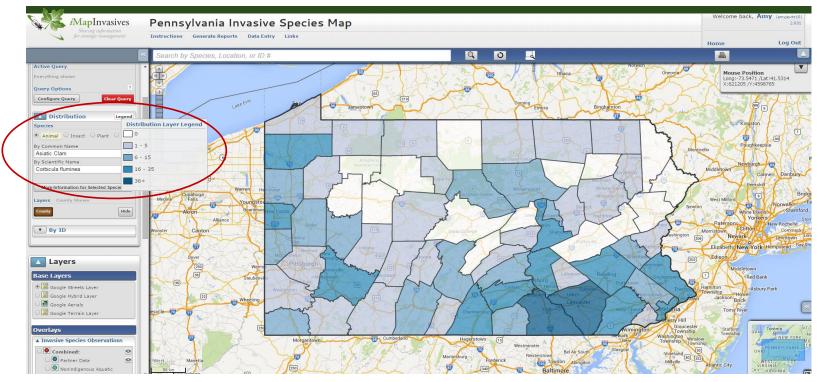


• Search by location – Ex. Lake LeBeouf



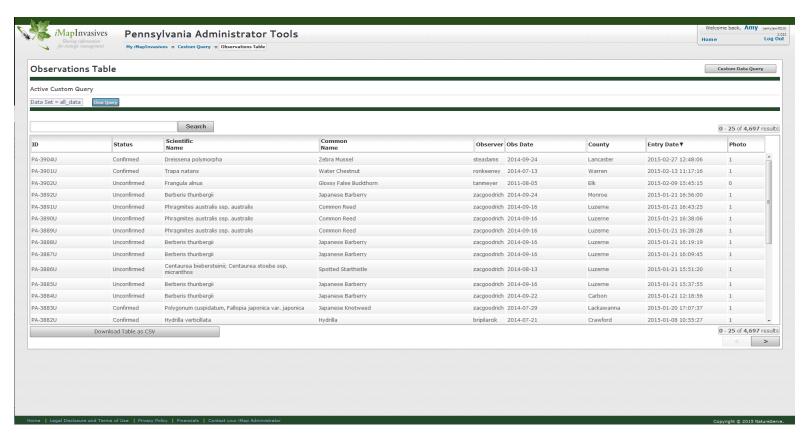
Find out what species have been reported in Lake LeBeouf

Querying with the Map for County Distribution Info



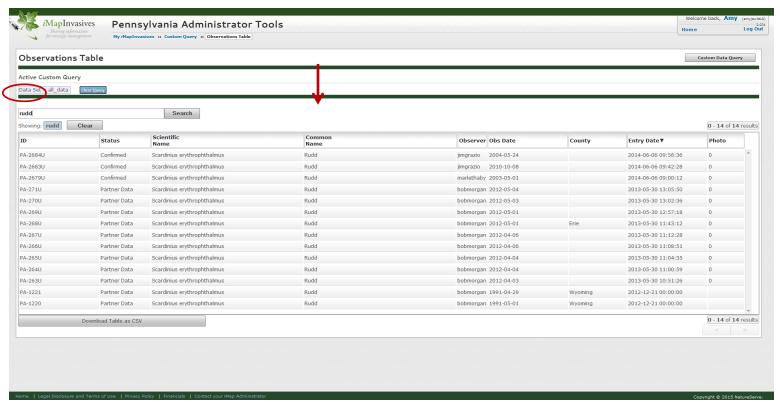
- View species distribution in PA counties
- Distribution density is shown as color goes from light to dark
- Ex. Asian clam distribution across state (based on current data)

Querying with the Table



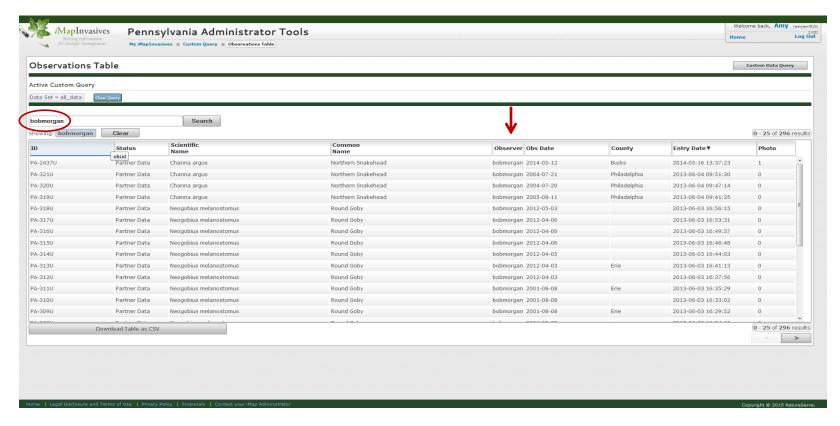
Search all observations

Querying with the Table -Search by Species



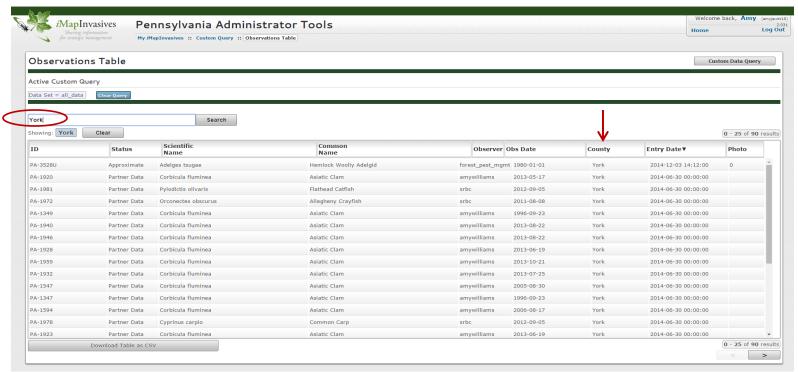
Search by species – Ex. Rudd (Search by common name or scientific name)

Querying with the Table – Search by Observer Name



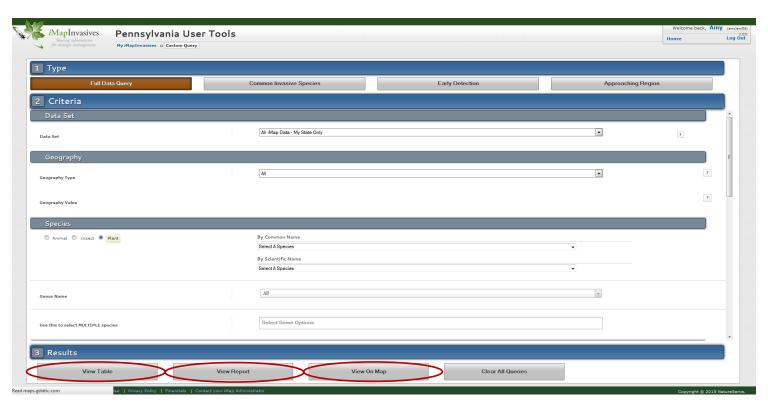
Search by Observer Name (i.e. User Name) – Ex. "bobmorgan"

Querying with the Table – Search by County



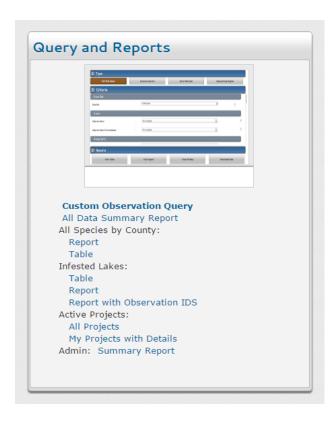
Search by County – Ex. York County

Create a Custom Observation Query

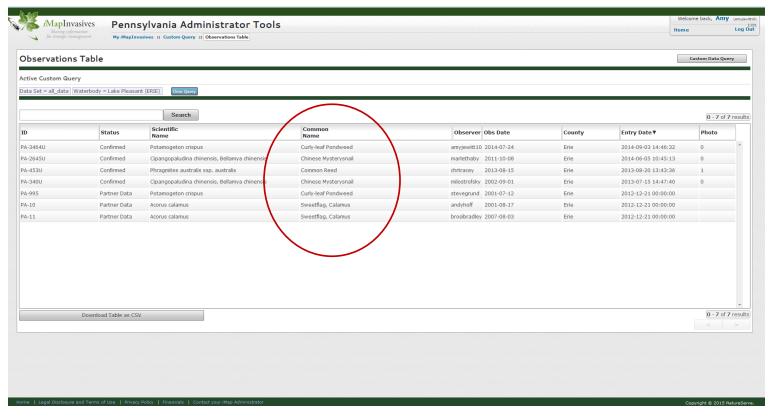


- Choose to filter by any number of categories many available!
- View query results in a table, report, or on the map.

Examples of Custom Data Queries and Ways to View the Results

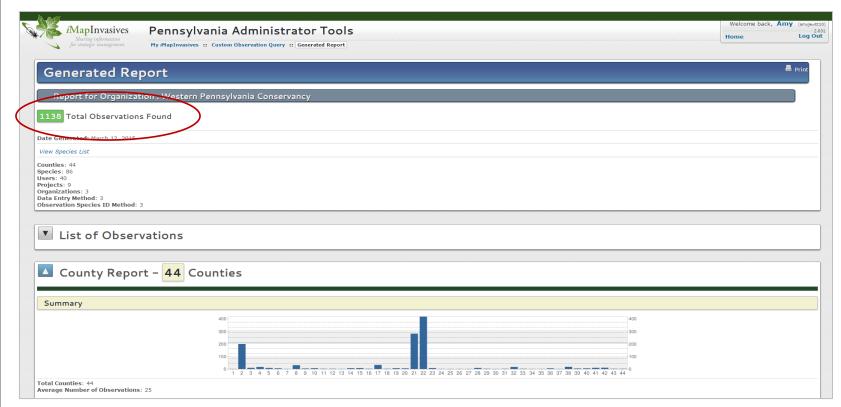


Create a Custom Query *View Results in a Table



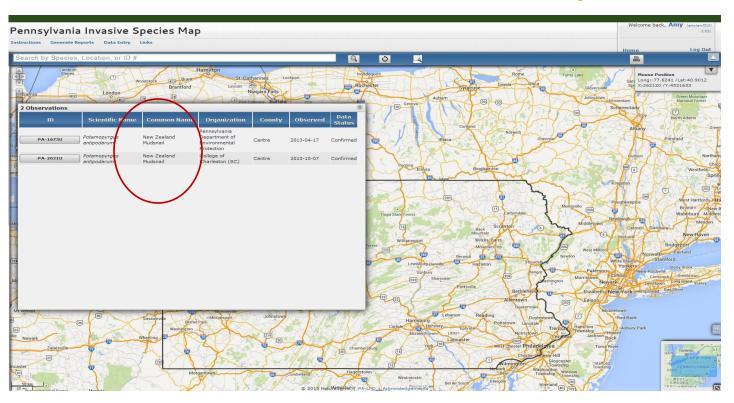
- Ex. What invasive species have been found in Lake Pleasant (Erie County)?
- Answer: Curly-leaf pondweed, Chinese Mysterysnail, Common Reed, and Sweetflag (according to present data)

Create a Custom Query *View Results in a Report



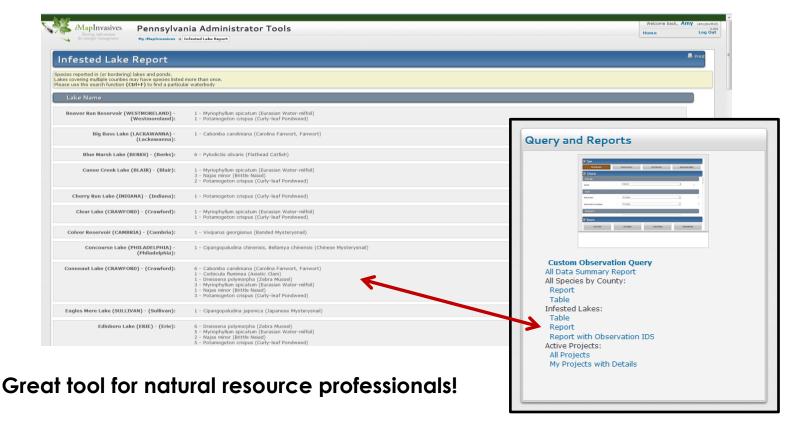
- Ex. What data is currently in iMap from my organization? (Western PA Conservancy)
- Answer: 1138 observation records (MUCH more info available in report!)

Create a Custom Query *View Results on the Map



- Ex. What aquatic animals are located in Centre County?
- Answer: New Zealand Mudsnail (according to present data)

Infested Lake Report



 This report is a quick and easy way to view a list of infested lakes and their associated invasive species. Available Under the Query and Reports section on the Main Navigation page.

Email Alerts

- Access email alerts from the Main Navigation page
- 3 types of alerts available
- Keeps you informed of latest info reported to iMapInvasives
- Invaluable EDRR tool
- Reference guide available on the Homepage



Zebra Mussels Photo credit: Becky Bochaty, Flickr user



Black Swallow-Wort

Continual Alert

- Most basic type of email alert available
- This alert will send you an email whenever its conditions are met, until the alert is deactivated



Water Chestnut
Photo credit: eattheweeds.com



Water Chestnut (Nutlet)
Photo credit: Dave Donachy, PA Game Commission

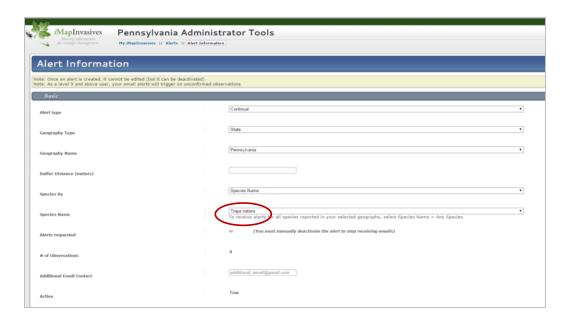
Example of a Continual Alert

Alert type = Continual

Geography Type = State

Geography Name = PA

Species Name = Trapa natans

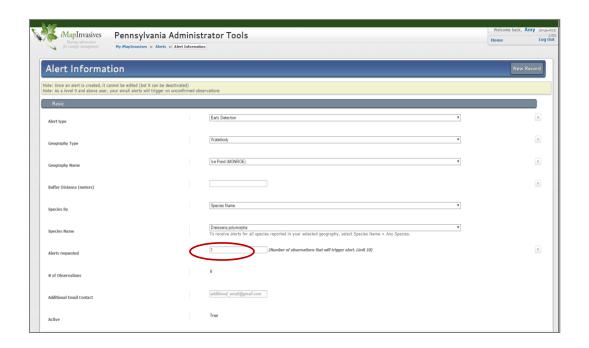


 For this continual alert, I will be notified whenever Water Chestnut (Trapa natans) is reported anywhere in Pennsylvania.

Early Detection Alert

- This type of alert is only active for the first few confirmed reports in your area of interest as a way to notify you of a new species coming into your area.
- Once there are many confirmed reports, you will stop getting notices as this species would now be considered established rather than an early detection species.

Example of an Early Detection Alert



Alert type = Early Detection

Geography Type = Waterbody

Geography Name = Ice Pond (Monroe)

Species Name =
Dreissena polymorpha

Alerts requested = 3

 For this Early Detection alert, I will be notified the first three times that Zebra Mussel (Dreissena polymorpha) is reported in Ice Pond in Monroe County. The fourth and subsequent observations will not generate an alert.

New to Geography Alert

- This type of alert will notify you when an area of interest you specify receives a report for a new species never reported there before.
 This can be for any species, not necessarily an early detection species.
- From this alert, EVERY new record for the specified geography is automatically sent to the user, though only one alert per species is sent.
- This alert is tailored around many species, not just a single species (Continual and Early Detection alerts are better for that purpose).

Example of a New to Geography Alert

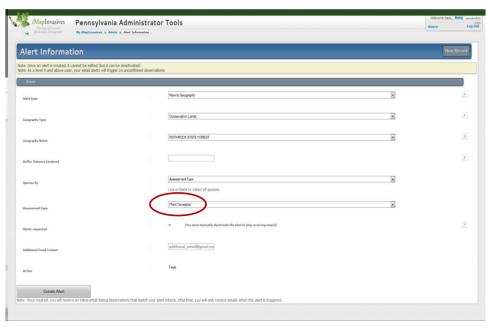
Alert Type = New to Geography

Geography Type = Conservation Lands

Geography Name = Rothrock State Forest

Species by = Assessment Type

Assessment Type = Plant Terrestrial



 For this New to Geography alert, I will be notified whenever a new terrestrial plant is reported in Rothrock State Forest, until I deactivate the alert.

Test Your iMapInvasives Knowledge!

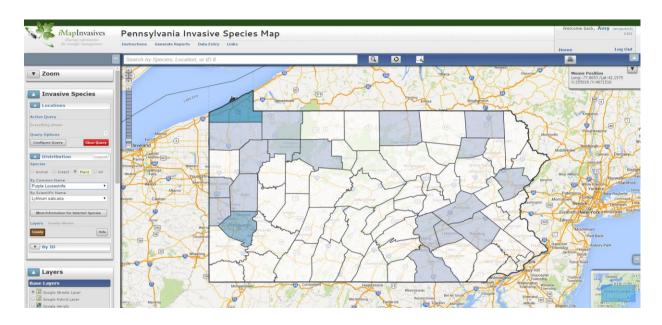
Correct answers will be rewarded with candy ©



- What are the 5 different types of records you can create in iMapInvasives?
- Answer: Observation, Assessment, Survey, Treatment, and Infestation Management.

- When entering an observation record, what are 3 ways you can select the observation location?
- Answer: GPS coordinates, specific address, and location name.

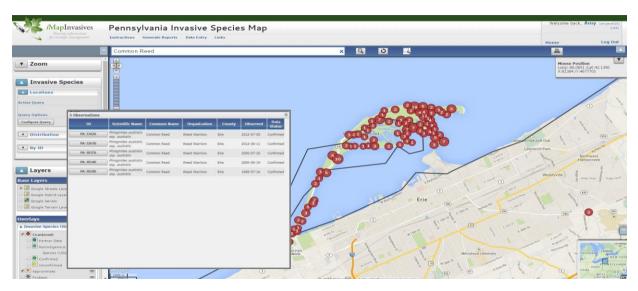
• In general, what is this map depicting?



 Answer: County distribution of a species across the state (based on current data in iMapInvasives)

- When entering an observation record that was observed by someone else, how do I record that person's name as the observer if they don't have a iMap login account?
- Answer: You can't. Even though you can enter an observation record for someone else, that person must first have an iMap login account to properly record him/her as the observer. A login account can be created by sending the person's name and email address to the iMap administrator.

 What happens when I click on a red "observation" circle on the map?



Answer: A concise list of all associated observations appears and provides a link to each individual observation record found in the list.

- What is the function of an early detection email alert?
- Answer: An early detection alert provides a way to notify you of a new species coming into your area. Once there are many confirmed reports for a certain species, you will stop getting alerts as this species would now be considered established rather than an early detection species.

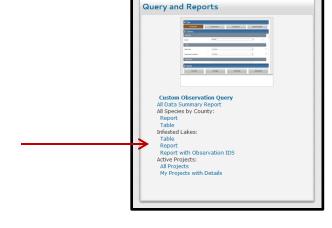
- What is an iMapInvasives project?
- Answer: A project in iMap is a way to group certain data together for easier and more efficient querying later on.

- If I wanted to set a customized filter to view only aquatic invasive animals found in Montgomery County, what tool would I use?
- Answer: The Custom Observation Query tool found on the Main Navigation page under the Query and Reports section.

- True or False: When entering a survey record, only presence data can be entered.
- Answer: False; surveys in iMapInvasives allow users to record both presence and absence data.

 What is the name of the tool which allows you to view a specific report about invasive species infesting Pennsylvania's

lakes?



 Answer: The Infested Lakes Report located on the Main Navigation page under the Query and Reports section.

Bonus Question!

- What should I do when I have a question on how to use the iMapInvasives database (and where can this info be found)?
- Answer: Send an email to imapinvasives@paconserve.org or call 412-586-2305. You can find this info on the new PA iMapInvasives Homepage.

Please be in touch with any questions or comments...

Mary Walsh

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- ajewitt@paconserve.org