

2013 Summary Report of Watercraft Inspection Results at Lake Minnetonka

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Introduction:

The watercraft inspection program's goal is to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species into and around the state. To accomplish this we conducted watercraft inspections and decontaminations at public water accesses throughout the state, worked with citizen groups concerned about AIS, and educated the public at events such as the state fair.

In 2012 the MN DNR Invasive Species Unit created a delegation agreement to allow Local Government Units (LGU) to hire authorized inspectors in order to increase the number of hours of inspection at water accesses important to them. This was done as a way to increase watercraft inspections throughout the state, and satisfy requests from citizen groups for more hours of inspections at accesses important to them.

Inspection Process:

The inspection process involves the watercraft inspector visually and tactilely searching for aquatic invasive species or anything else that could potentially spread aquatic invasive species such as water, mud, plants or other debris. Watercraft inspectors also complete a survey while educating boaters about the issues surrounding aquatic invasive species. Survey questions focus on boater knowledge and behavior with information given on the impacts of aquatic invasive species and what can be done to prevent their spread.

Inspectors are trained to observe and document when watercraft enter a public water access with any violations, including boats with attached vegetation as well as watercraft whose drain plugs have not been removed. Information gathered by DNR and LGU authorized inspectors can help show potential risk of transporting AIS. During the inspection process watercraft users are asked to voluntarily disclose the last water body visited, as well as the location of the next planned trip. This information can be used in the future to gauge potential risks if multiple boaters report zebra mussel infested water bodies as their last visited lake.

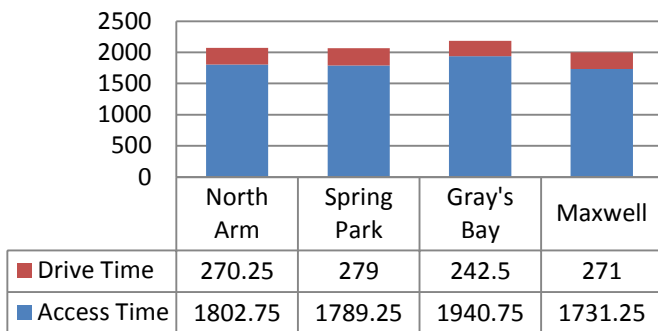
Inspection Results:

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District entered into a delegation agreement with the MN DNR in April of 2013 to hire and train authorized inspectors during the 2013 watercraft inspection season. The contract dates were May 14th through November 15th of 2013.

The data in this report will be based on all hours and inspections done at Lake Minnetonka in the 2013 season. Inspections conducted at Minnetonka Regional Park will also include Three Rivers Park staff.

Inspection Results Continued:

DNR Hours at Access



DNR Hours at Access

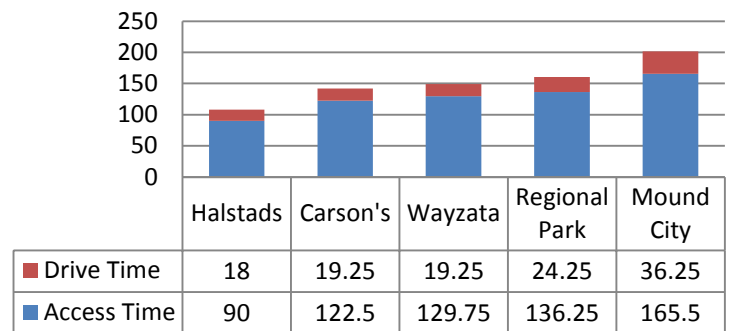


Figure 1-2: MNDNR Watercraft Inspectors worked 9,087.75 hours at Lake Minnetonka. Of those 7,08 were at the accesses.

Primary Accesses Inspections per hour (DNR Staff)

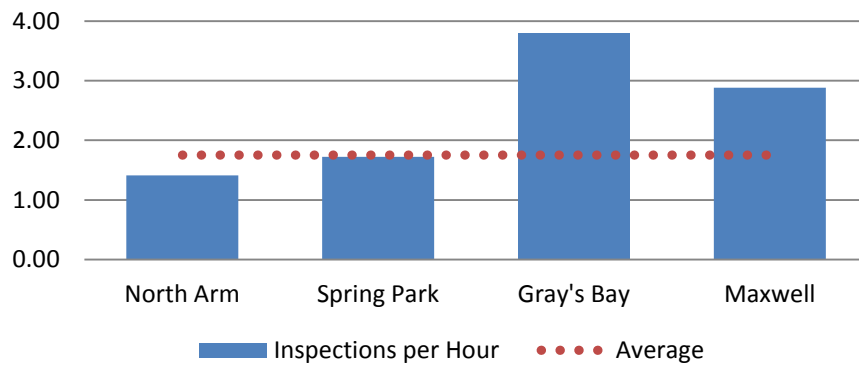
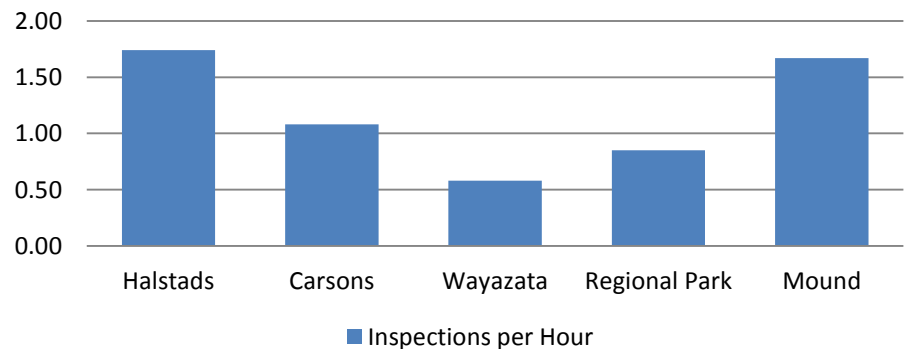


Figure 3: North Arm had an average inspection per hour of 1.41, Spring Park was 1.72, Gray's Bay was 3.8, and Maxwell was 2.88 inspections per hour.

Secondary Accesses Inspections per hour (DNR Staff)

Figure 4: Halstads had an average inspection per hour of 1.74, Carsons was 1.08, Wayzata was 0.58, Regional Park was .085, and Mound had 1.67 inspections per hour.



Drain Plug Status of Incoming Watercraft

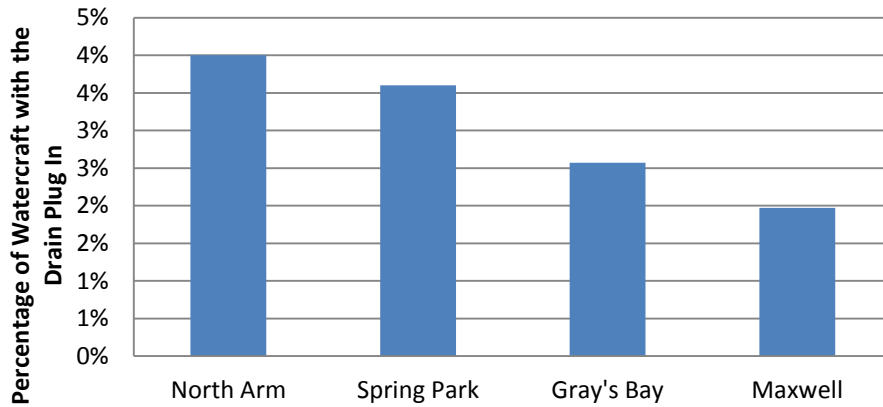


Figure 5: Percentage of watercraft users observed coming to the primary accesses with drain plugs installed. Per Minnesota statutes drain plugs are required to be removed when transporting watercraft. Watercraft users were directed to remove drain plugs and drain watercraft away from the water body prior to launching.

Drain Plug Status of Incoming Watercraft

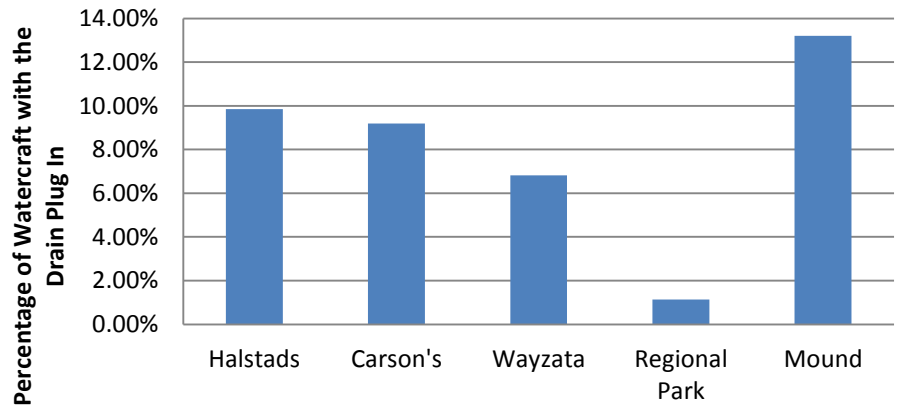


Figure 6: Percentage of watercraft users observed coming to the primary accesses with drain plugs installed. Per Minnesota statutes drain plugs are required to be removed when transporting watercraft. Watercraft users were directed to remove drain plugs and drain watercraft away from the water body prior to launching.

Occurrence of Species Found

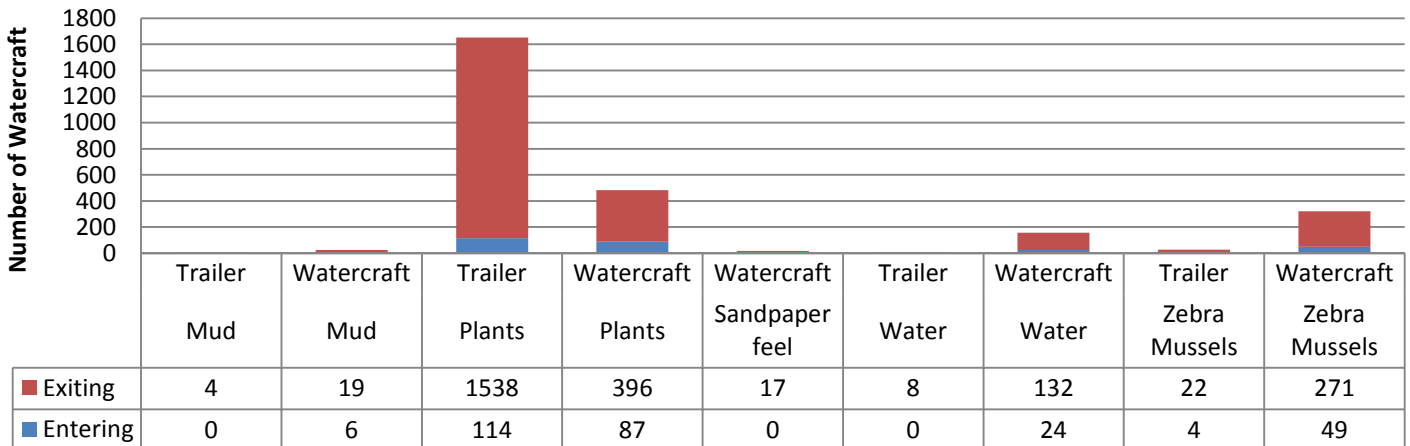


Figure 7: Watercraft inspectors found potential threats during inspections at North Arm, Spring Park, Gray's Bay and Maxwell accesses. Detailed information about these occurrences is listed here.

Occurrence of Species Found

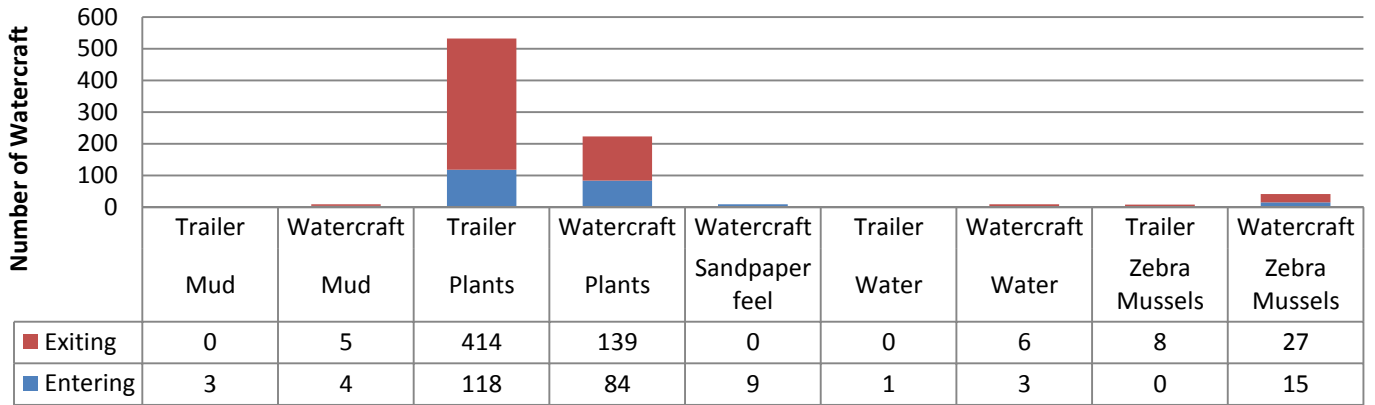


Figure 8: Watercraft inspectors found potential threats during inspections at Halstads, Carsons, Wayzata, Regional Park and Mound accesses. Detailed information about these occurrences is listed here.

Watercraft from ZM Waters

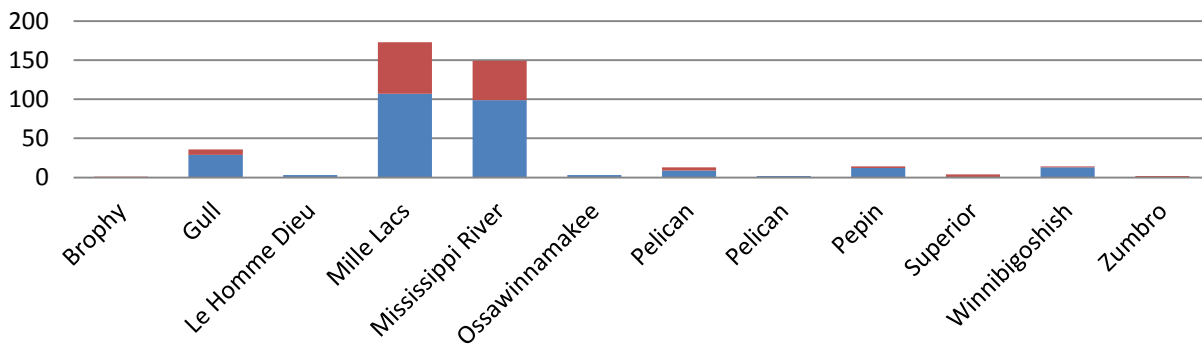


Figure 9: Watercraft entering or exiting North Arm, Spring Park, Gray's Bay and Maxwell accesses that last used zebra mussel infested waters. The surveys completed found that 413 boaters had come from a water body in Minnesota known to be infested with zebra mussels. The majority of the watercraft were coming from Lake Mille Lacs.

Watercraft from ZM Waters

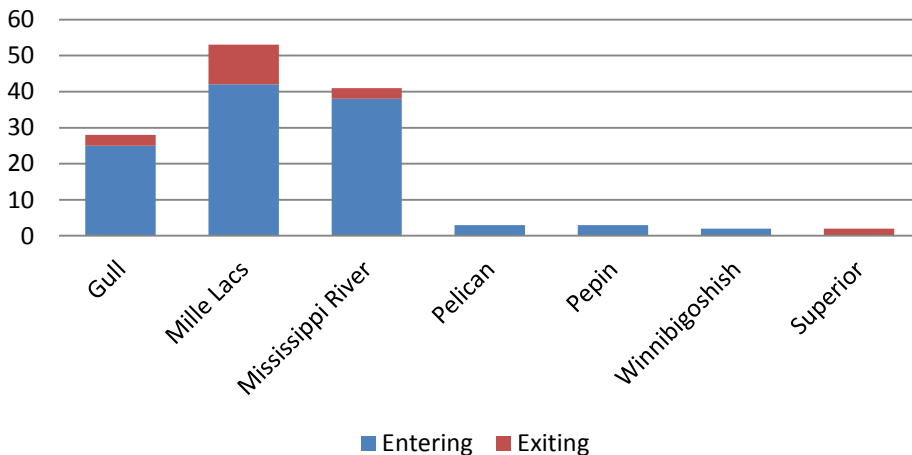


Figure 10: Watercraft entering or exiting Halstads, Carsons, Wayzata, Regional Park and Mound accesses that last used zebra mussel infested waters. The surveys completed found that 132 boaters had come from a water body in Minnesota known to be infested with zebra mussels. The majority of the watercraft were coming from

Other States-Primary Access

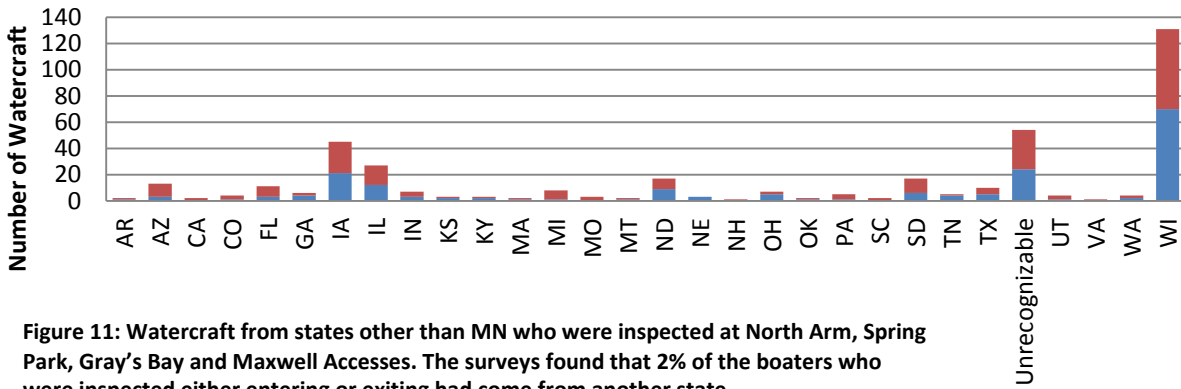


Figure 11: Watercraft from states other than MN who were inspected at North Arm, Spring Park, Gray's Bay and Maxwell Accesses. The surveys found that 2% of the boaters who were inspected either entering or exiting had come from another state.

Other States-Secondary Accesses

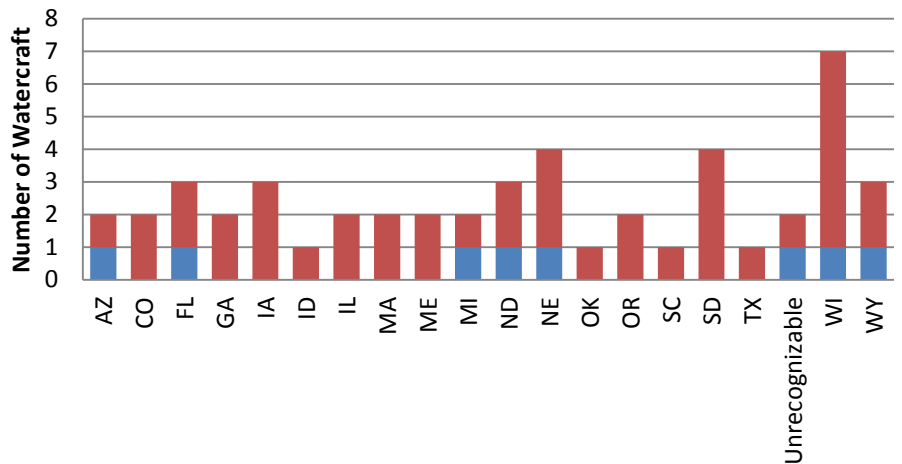


Figure 12: Watercraft from states other than MN who were inspected at Halstads, Carsons, Wayzata, Regional Park and Mound Accesses. The surveys found that 1% of the boaters who were inspected either entering or exiting had come from another state.

Discussion:

Out of the 29371 inspections done at Lake Minnetonka 4,239 (or 14%) had not been inspected or spoken with a month or more of the current inspections and were an important audience for us to contact.

