

## **2013 Summary Report of Watercraft Inspection Results at Big Marine Lake**

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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 January of 2008 the MN DNR Invasive Species Unit created a grant program to allow citizen groups 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.

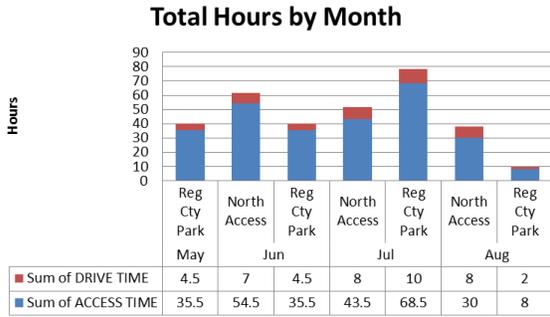
### **Inspection Process:**

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.

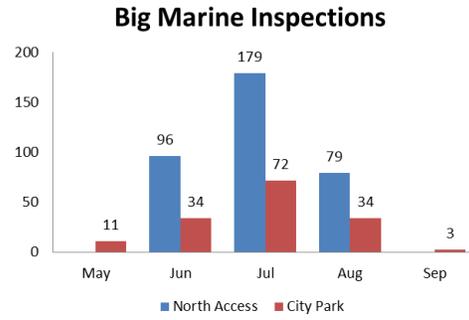
Inspectors are trained to observe and document when watercraft enter a public water access with any violations, including boats with attached vegetation as well as watercraft whose drain plugs have not been removed. Information gathered by DNR and LGU authorized inspectors can help show potential risk 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:**

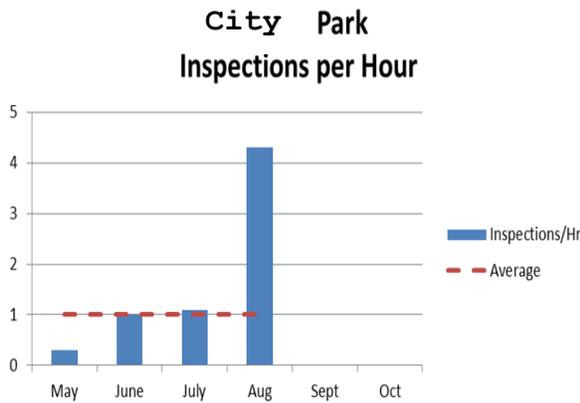
The Carnelian-Marine-St Croix Watershed District received a prevention grant from the MN DNR in April of 2013 for 85 hours of inspection time during the 2013 watercraft inspection season. The contract dates were May 15<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup> of 2013. Four watercraft inspectors were hired in the Washington County area to help work at Big Marine Lake in order to accomplish the 155 hours (35 – North Access, 120 – Park Access).



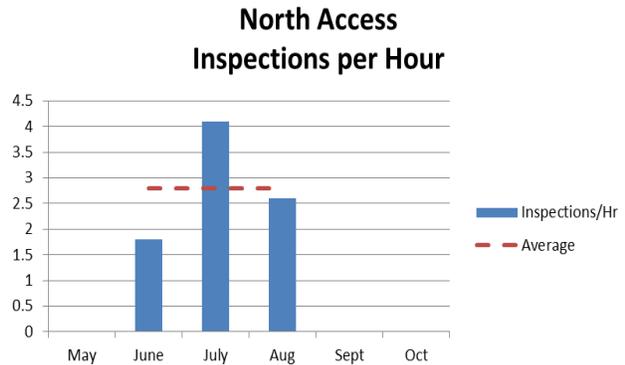
**Figure 1: MNDNR Watercraft Inspectors worked 168.5 hours (147.5 hours of access time and 21 hours of drive time) at Big Marine Park Reserve access.**



**Figure 2: During the 2013 season 154 inspections were conducted by the DNR at the Park Reserve Access.**

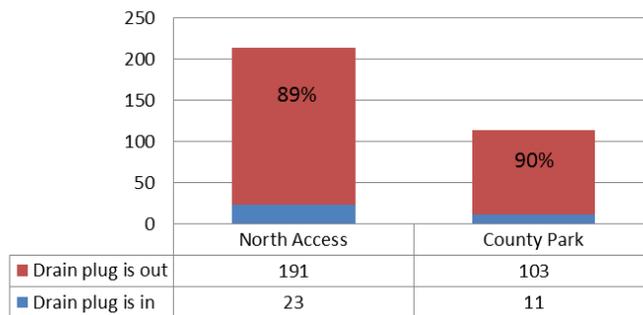


**Figure 3.1: Inspections per hour by month at Park Reserve access as seen by DNR Inspectors.**



**Figure 3.2: Inspections per hour by month at North access as seen by DNR Inspectors.**

### Drain Plug Status on Incoming Watercraft

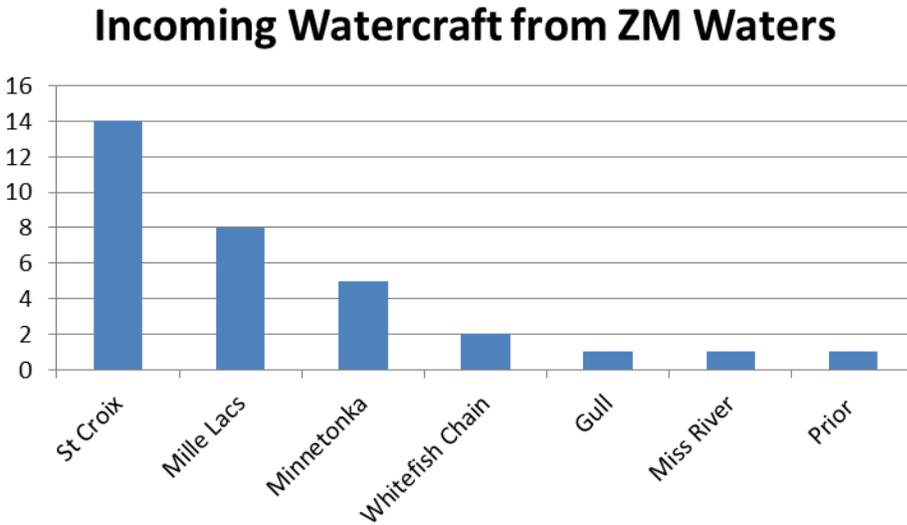


**Figure 4: Percentage of incoming watercraft with drain plugs installed. These users were directed away from the access to pull their plugs and drain any standing water.**

**Out of State Watercraft:** Only three watercraft were encountered coming to Big Marine Lake from out of State. All three watercraft originated in Wisconsin

**Species Found:** Of all the incoming watercraft inspections, none resulted in the discovery of plants, mud, animals or other prohibited species.

**Zebra Mussel Waters:** The following graph shows previous waters for boaters coming to Big Marine Lake that are classified as infested with ZM.



### Discussion:

Our goal was to accomplish 155 hours on Big Marine Lake. The North access hour goal was 35. The Park Reserve access goal was 120 hours, which includes both DNR (35) and Grant (85) hours. We accomplished 168.5 hours on Big Marine Lake (147.5 – Park Reserve access). This exceeded our Park Reserve access goal by 27.5 hours. DNR inspectors conducted 508 inspections from May until October. During these contacts, inspectors are trained to help educate users about aquatic invasive species, state statutes, and help identify areas on the individual's watercraft that may be likely to contain invasive species.