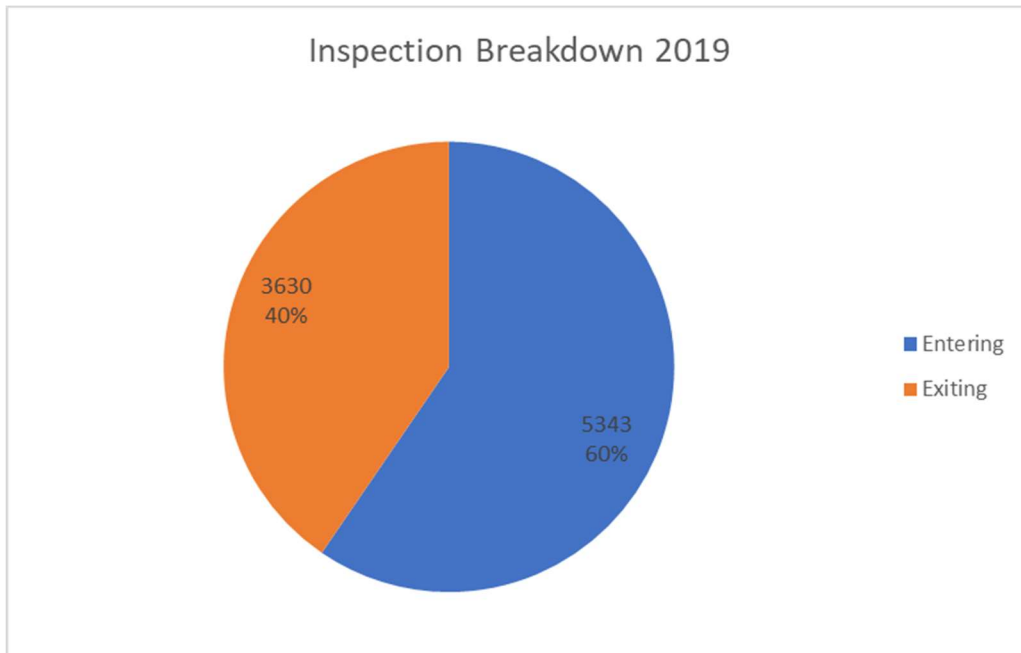


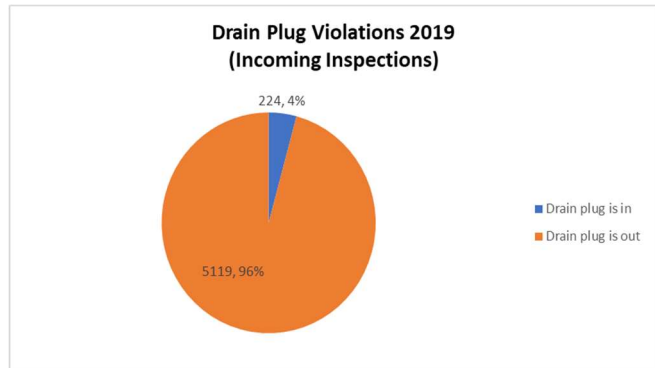
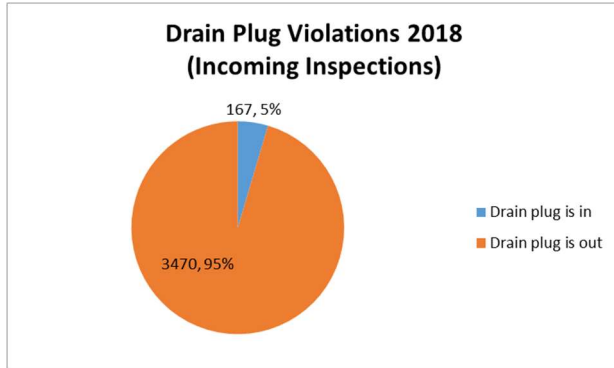


Washington County AIS Inspection Program Summary Points 2019

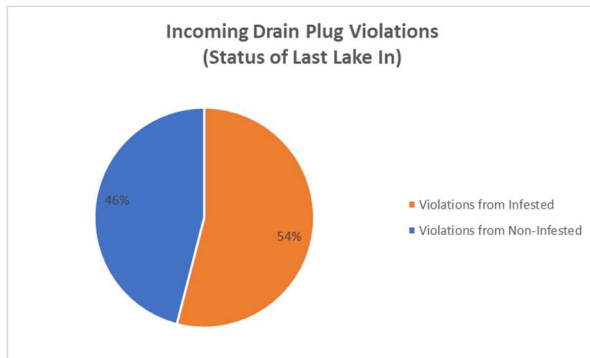
The WCD supervised 10 DNR authorized Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors for the 2019 season. Funding was received from Washington County, Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD), Big Marine Lake Association (BMLA), Square Lake Association (SLA), the City of Scandia, Ramsey County Soil and Water Division (RCSWCD), Bald Eagle Lake Association (BELA) and Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD). These inspectors were present at 16 water access locations starting April 25th through October 27th. During the inspection season, 3,169 hours of inspections occurred, resulting in 8,973 inspections. Compared to 2018, 427 more hours of inspections occurred, and 2,511 more inspections were performed. The substantial increase in hours and inspections performed was thanks to the addition of 3 new partners (BMLA, RCSWCD and BELA) and increased funding from the watershed districts. 2019 funds were \$11,500 higher than 2018, allowing for 3 additional part time staff to be hired. Further optimization of shift scheduling also contributed to the increase of inspections performed.



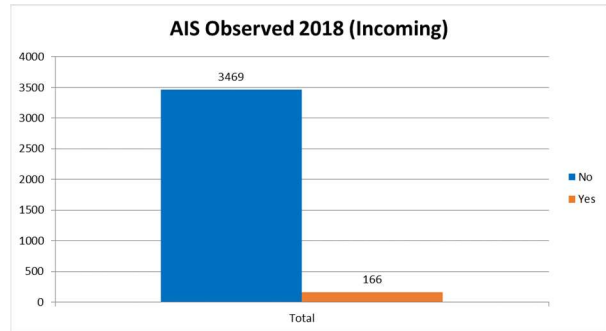
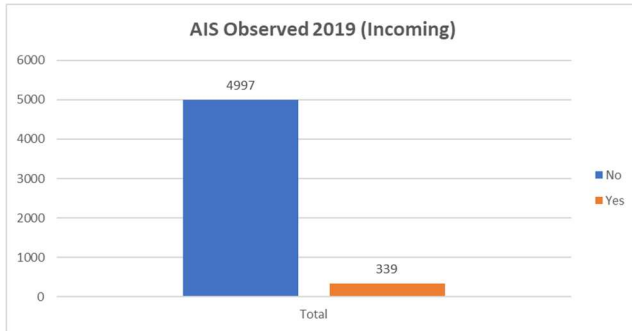
The number of inspections performed in 2019 was roughly 50% more than the number performed in 2018. Entering versus exiting inspection percentage was comparable to previous year's results; the statewide average distribution is 60/40 entering to exiting. There has been an emphasis regionally on entering inspections to prevent new infestations, the high proportion of already infested waters in close proximity to, or within Washington County, makes exiting inspections equally as important.



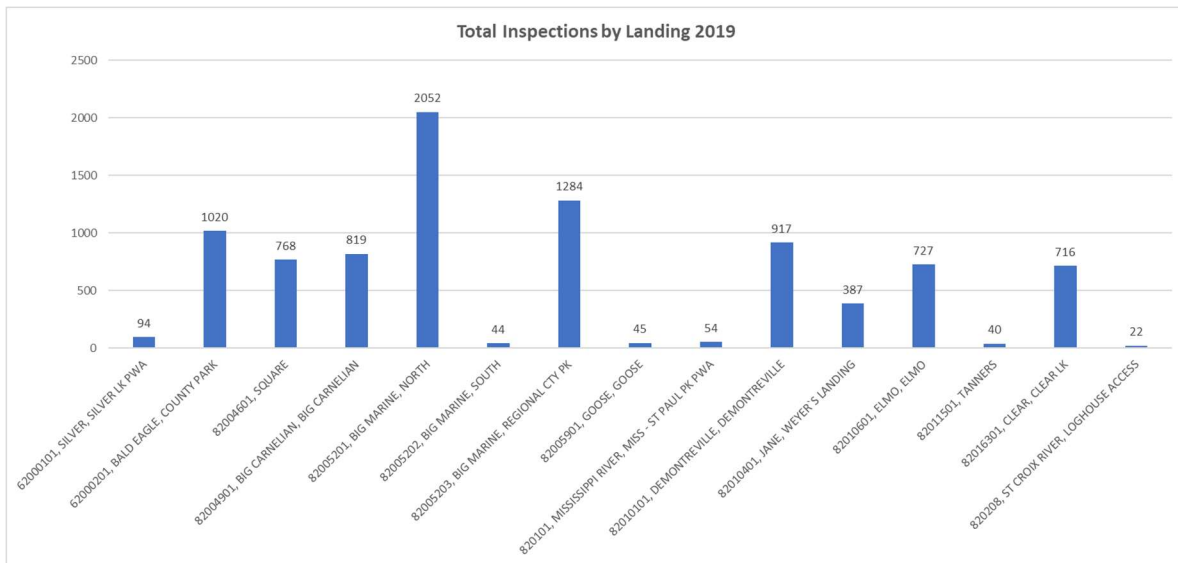
The number of total drain plug violations observed in 2019 increased slightly from the previous year, but as a percentage of inspections performed it was lower at 4%. For incoming inspections, the rate of violation has dropped each year of the program from 9% (2015) to 7% (2016) to 5% (2017, 2018). After five years of data collection, it does appear that this is a trend, and indicates that increased inspections and education are having a positive impact on the behaviors of boaters in Washington County. While these data are encouraging, efforts should continue in order to help Washington County achieve the statewide average of 3.5%, or better. Further education efforts should be explored in 2020, and steps should be taken to work with the Washington County Sheriff's office to increase the enforcement of AIS laws.



Of incoming drain plug violations where the last lake visited was reported, 54% had come from waters infested with Zebra Mussels, Flowering Rush, or Eurasian Water Milfoil. 62% of those violations listed Bald Eagle, Big Marine, Demontreville, or White Bear as the last lake visited. Greater effort should be made to increase both the number of inspections and education of these lakes' users to reduce the likelihood of spread of AIS from those sources. The percent of violations where the user reported coming from infested waters was similar to 2018. These instances in 2019 and 2018 were 54% and 55%, respectively, which is drastically higher than the rate of 18% in 2017



Of the 5,336 incoming inspections performed in 2019, 339 AIS violations were observed. This is roughly double the number observed in 2018, and was an increase of 3% when compared to 2018 (7% violation in 2019 vs. 4% violation in 2018). The vast majority of violations were plants attached to the boat or trailer attempting to launch, and were successfully removed by hand and did not enter the lake in question. Four Zebra Mussel violations were observed on incoming inspections; all of which were dead mussels that were able to be removed by hand prior to launch. Additionally, all Zebra Mussel violations were forwarded to the DNR for enforcement action. These results are slightly lower than the statewide trend for violations.

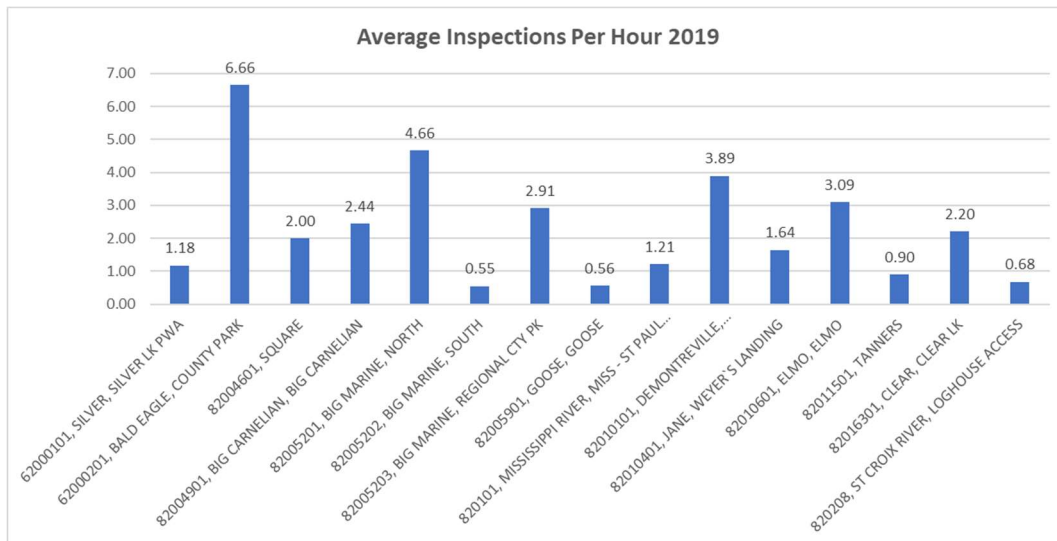


Every access scheduled had inspections performed in 2019, excluding Oneka Lake due to staffing shortages in the fall. Big Marine Lake had the highest number of inspection hours, followed by the rest of the lakes in the CMSCWD and those in the VBWD. This was because of additional funding provided by those organizations and other invested partners, as well as, by historic boater use patterns. Big Marine

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was the most inspected lake in 2019, as in years prior. Bald Eagle was the second highest, highlighting the success of a new partnership with Ramsey County which allowed for WCD to provide additional inspection support to this highly used regional lake. The average number of inspections per hour of staffing also shows that CMSCWD and VBWD lakes tend to have the highest rate of use in the county. When comparing 2019 averages to 2018, it appears that program changes have generally increased the efficiency of the inspection program. Many of the lakes in the county saw an increase in the number of inspections performed per unit of effort. 2019 results also showed an interesting observation at one lake in particular; the inspections per hour at Bald Eagle Lake was 6.66, all of which occurred on Saturday mornings across the boating season.



Please note, although this summary addresses trends and data for Washington County lakes it references only those that are serviced by the Washington Conservation District. All the lakes located in CLFLWD have inspections performed by CLFLWD or Chisago County staff. Also, the MNDNR performs inspections on many of the high use landings in the county, as well as being primarily responsible for the access points on the Saint Croix River.