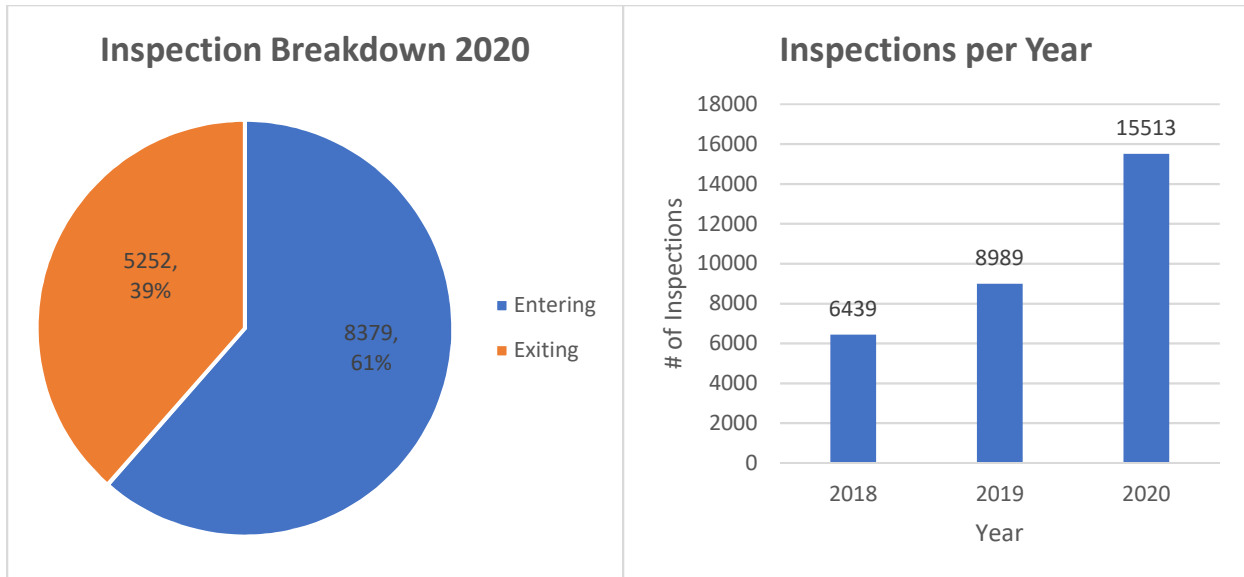




Washington County AIS Inspection Summary Points 2020

The WCD supervised 10 DNR authorized Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors for the 2020 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), Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD), Lake Demontreville Olson Association (LDOA), and Clear Lake Association (CLA). These inspectors were present at 17 water access locations starting May 9th through October 9th. During the inspection season, 3,381 hours of inspections occurred resulting in 15,513 inspections. Compared to 2019, 212 more hours of inspections occurred, and 6,540 more inspections were performed. The increase in hours and substantial increase in inspections performed was thanks to the addition of new partners (LDOA, CLA) and increased funding from existing partners. Additionally, increased outdoor recreation during the season was a likely contributor to increased inspections.



The number of inspections performed in 2020 was approximately 173% more than the number performed in 2019. Entering versus exiting inspection percentage was comparable to previous years' results; the statewide average distribution is 60/40 entering to exiting. As with previous years, emphasis has been placed on entering inspections to prevent new infestations. However, exiting inspections are equally important to prevent infestations from spreading.

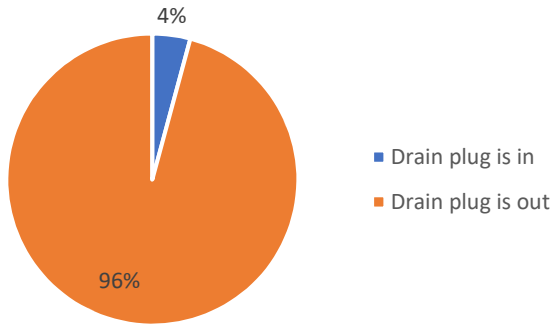


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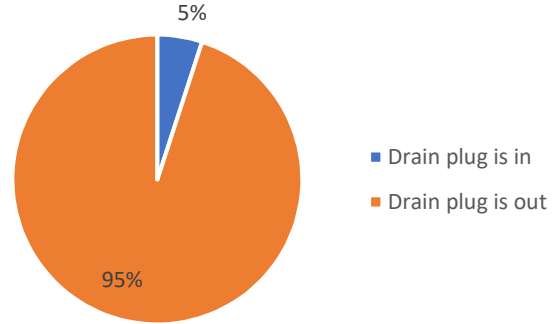
455 HAYWARD AVE N
OAKDALE, MN 55128

651-330-8220 [PHONE]
651-330-7747 [FAX]
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Drain Plug Violations 2019 (Incoming Inspections)

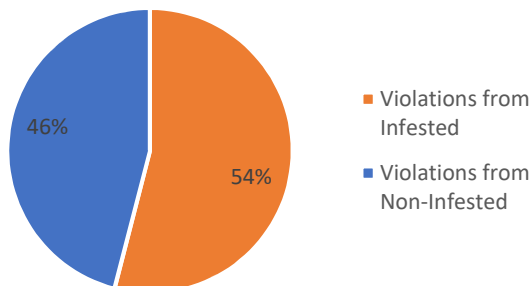


Drain Plug Violations 2020 (Incoming Inspections)

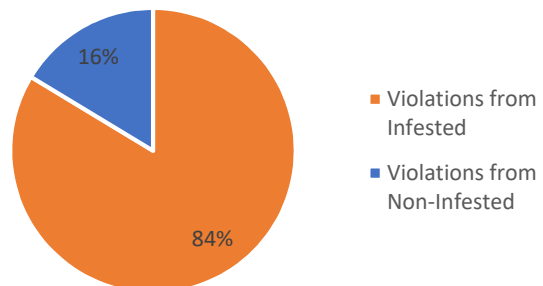


There was an increase in drain plug violations in 2020, both the number and as a percentage of inspections. Previously the rate of violation had been dropping each year—in 2015 the rate of violation was 9% and dropped to 4% by 2019. The increase this year to 5% is concerning, but due to increased inspections and increased boater activity the slight increase is not entirely surprising. It is possible that a large number of new boaters were active this year due to COVID-19 restricting indoor activities which may account for some of the violation increases. Efforts should be made moving forward to increase education regarding drain plug laws to reduce the number of violations and continue the previous trend of decreasing violations each year. Steps should also be taken to better partner with local law enforcement to better enforce AIS laws.

Incoming Drain Plug Violations 2019 (Status of Last Lake In)

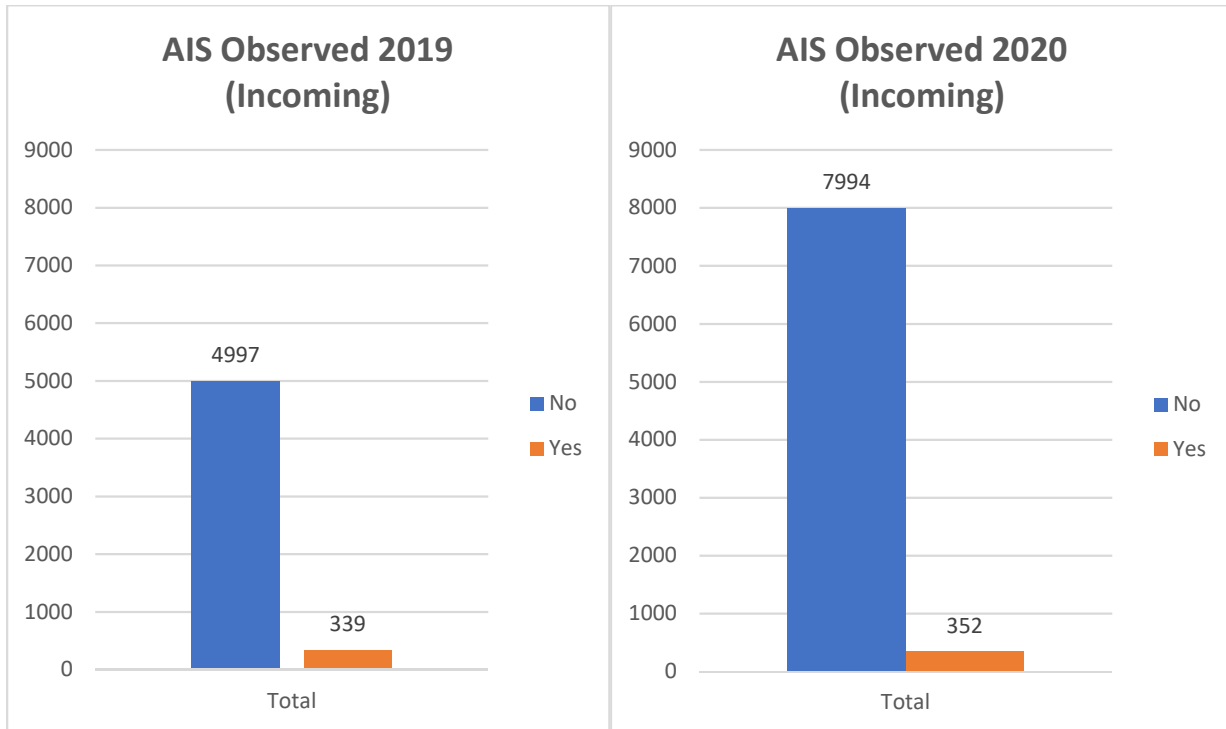


Incoming Drain Plug Violations 2020 (Status of Last Lake In)





Of incoming drain plug violations where the last lake visited was reported, 84% had come from waters infested with zebra mussels, flowering rush, spiny water flea, or Eurasian water milfoil. This is a steep increase from 2019's results, which show 54% of violations were previously in an infested lake. Fifty-two percent of these violations had Bald Eagle, Big Marine, DeMontreville, the Saint Croix River, or White Bear listed as the previous lake.



Of the 8,346 incoming inspections performed in 2020, 352 violations were observed. This is only a slight increase from the number of incoming violations in 2019 (339), and a smaller percentage (4% in 2020, 6% in 2019). The most common violations were aquatic plants attached to the boat or trailer and were able to successfully be removed prior to launch. There were six incoming zebra mussel violations observed; in two of these incidents the zebra mussels were dead and able to be removed by hand. In the other four instances, the boaters were denied launch and sent to decontamination sites. Additionally, all zebra mussel violations were forwarded to the DNR for enforcement.

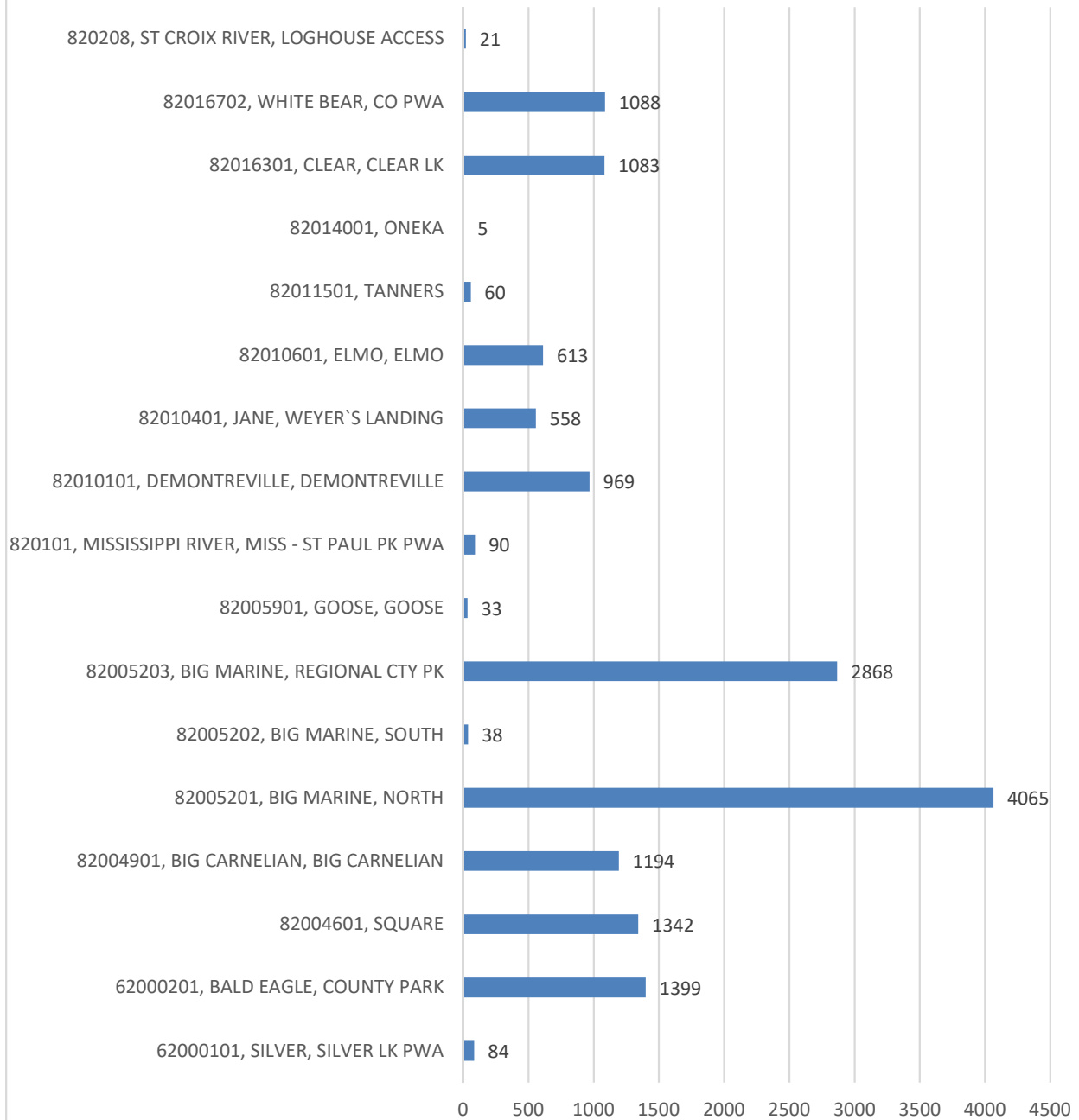


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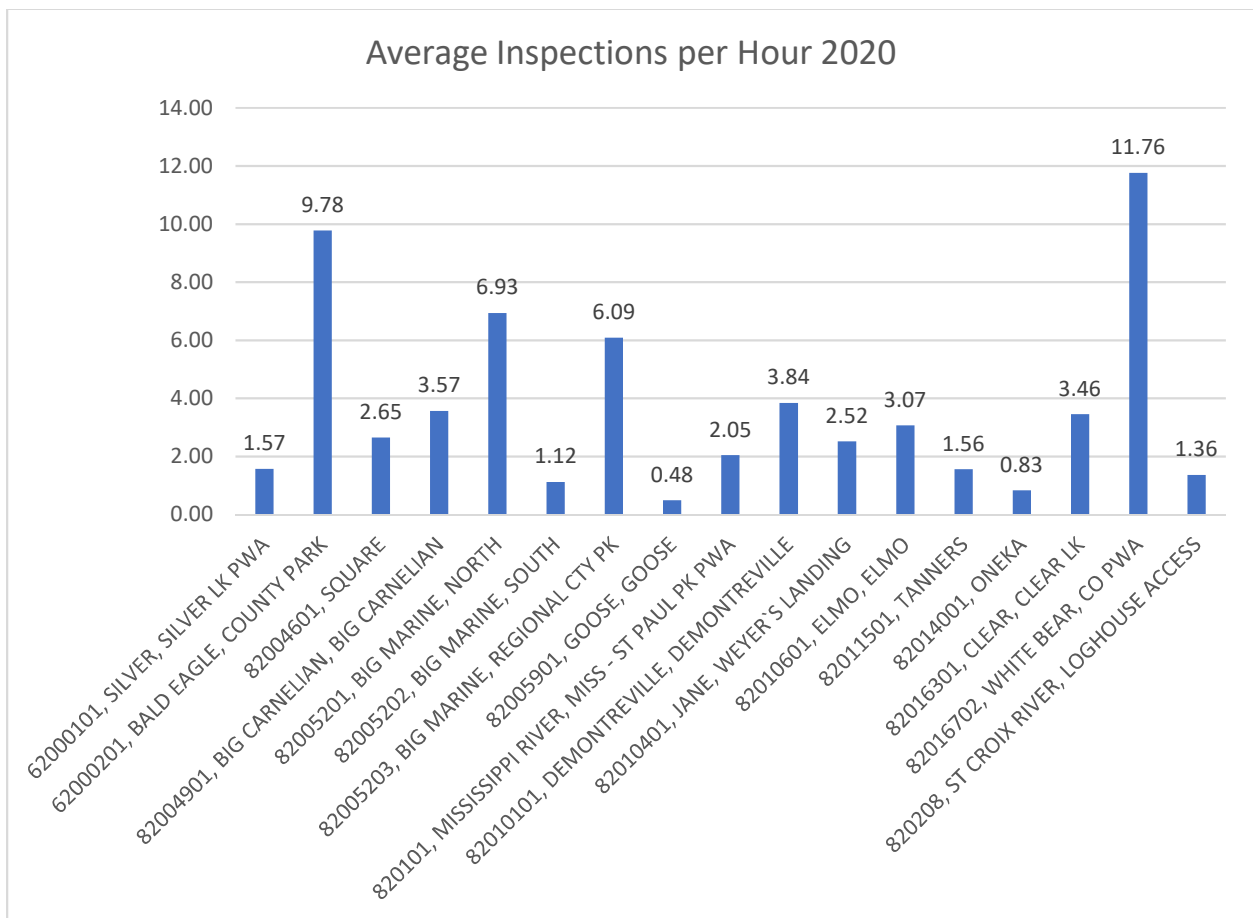
Total Inspections by Landing 2020



Supervisors: Louise Smallidge • Bob Rosenquist • Diane Blake • John Rheinberger • Jim Levitt



Inspections were performed at all 17 landings throughout the boating season. As in previous years, the highest number of inspection hours were conducted at Big Marine, followed by the rest of CMSCWD, and VBWD. Square Lake received additional inspection hours this year thanks to increased contributions from SLA. In VBWD, DeMontreville received the most inspection hours due to increased funding from LDOA. Historic boater patterns also played a part in distribution of hours. Big Marine was the most inspected lake in 2020 as in previous years. Bald Eagle once again had the second most inspections conducted, followed by Square. Big Carnelian, Clear, White Bear, and DeMontreville had similar inspection numbers. With the exceptions of Goose, Log House, and Elmo, each landing in CMSCWD and VBWD had an increase in inspections in 2020 compared to 2019. In addition to increased inspections, efficiency with inspections per hour has also increased overall. This can be at least partially attributed to increased understanding of boater use patterns. It is also likely that an overall increase in boaters in 2020 contributed to this increase in efficiency. White Bear and Bald Eagle had the highest rates of inspections per hour, 11.76 and 9.78 respectively. Inspections at both of these landings were conducted only on Saturdays and Sundays during times of heavy use (Bald Eagle 5am-10am; White Bear 5-8:30pm).





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 note that 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.