

DATE: DECEMBER 1st, 2014

SUBJECT: 2014 ANNUAL & END OF PROJECT REPORT FOR THE: NE WISC.  
CLEAN BOATS-WATER GRANT FOR INLAND LAKES PROJECT  
**AEPP-356-12 Final report**

FROM: TOM WARD, PROJECT MANAGER FOR GLACIERLAND RC&D

## **Grant Background**

Glacierland Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) received a WDNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control grant for a period of three years to hire at least three Clean Boat Inspectors that would provide a core boat inspection program on inland lakes in NE Wisconsin. Boat inspectors targeted inland lakes as identified by area AIS Coordinators, with the exception of the boat launches located in Oconto County on the Bay of Green Bay, Winnebago and ports along Lake Michigan that are covered by paid boat inspectors managed by UW Seagrant staff or UW Oshkosh.

Volunteers as a group had not been able to provide a significant force or AIS effort on most lakes in the NE region, critical in the early development of AIS education efforts. Many of these inland lakes have found to have multiple AIS species, indicating a systemic mechanism of AIS introduction that needs to be broken. Current water guard funding was too limited to reach our area lakes on a regular basis.

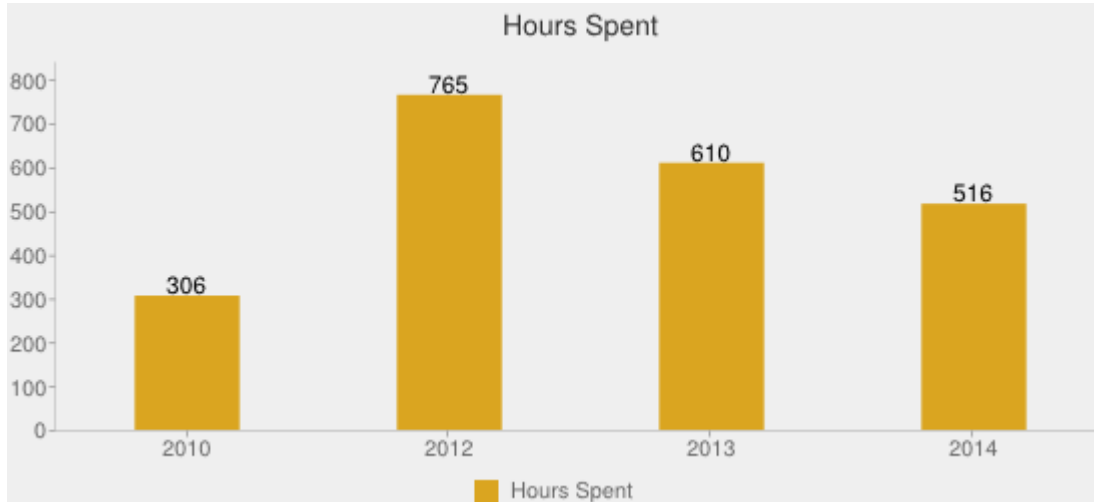
This project provide a core boat inspection program for Counties like Kewaunee, Brown and Fondulac that did not have an active AIS or boat inspection program on inland lakes. By providing boat inspections in the project area as a whole helped to cover lakes in near by proximity to lakes with boat inspection such as Manitowoc and Calumet counties.

## **2014 Summary**

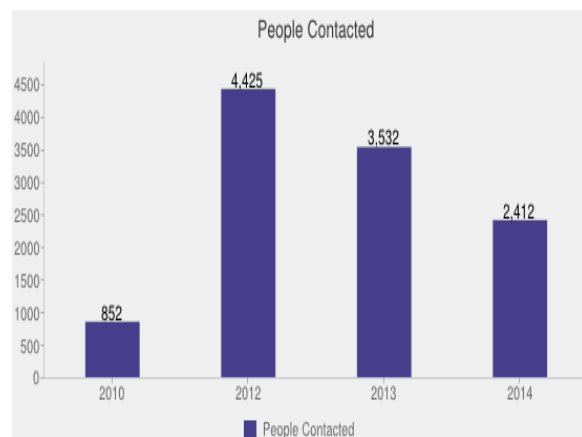
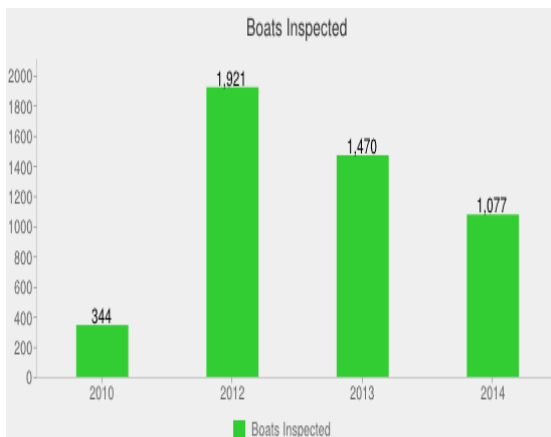
This completes our last season of our three year grant project to conduct Boat inspections at lakes in NE Wisconsin. This year I hired Ion Woest a UW student from UW Stevens Point to work in Oconto County; Brittany Gallas a high school student from Lincoln High in Manitowoc for Manitowoc and Kewaunee County; John Kamps a UW student from Oconto County and inspector from previous years; Phil Stenberg student at LTC from Manitowoc County; and Dave Pozorski past President of the Manitowoc County Lakes Association and experienced volunteer boat inspector from previous years.

Trying to hire college student interns this year proved to be difficult creating a delay in start up of inspections. John Kemp returned this spring but only worked a week or two and accepted an internship that offered more hours and expanded training; Phil Stenberg started in June and found it to difficult to continue with a 2<sup>nd</sup> job; and a UW Oshkosh student was hired but later accepted the inspector position with Lake Winnebago project. Ion Woest stepped in for Oconto County and I later hired Dave Pozorski and Brittany Gallas. As result of inspector turnover we were not ready after training to conduct inspections until the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday Blitz that was very successful.

The inspector turnover resulted in a loss of about 100 hours of inspection time from 2013 to 2014 and put us in July and especially August when boating drops off, reducing our efficiency with the number of boats at the launches. Having an experienced inspector and person knowledge of local lake issues with Dave Pozorski proved to be very beneficial with this years revision of the CBCW inspection form and procedure that emphasized education of boaters.



Fondulac County was unable to provide project match this year therefore the inspectors were not assigned to that County. Boat inspections in Calumet and Brown County were limited to inland lakes due to the on going inspection projects on Lake Winnebago and Green Bay and were limited because of the absence of boaters on Lilly Lake in Brown; Becker and Round lakes in Calumet which are recovering from winter of fish kills from three years ago.

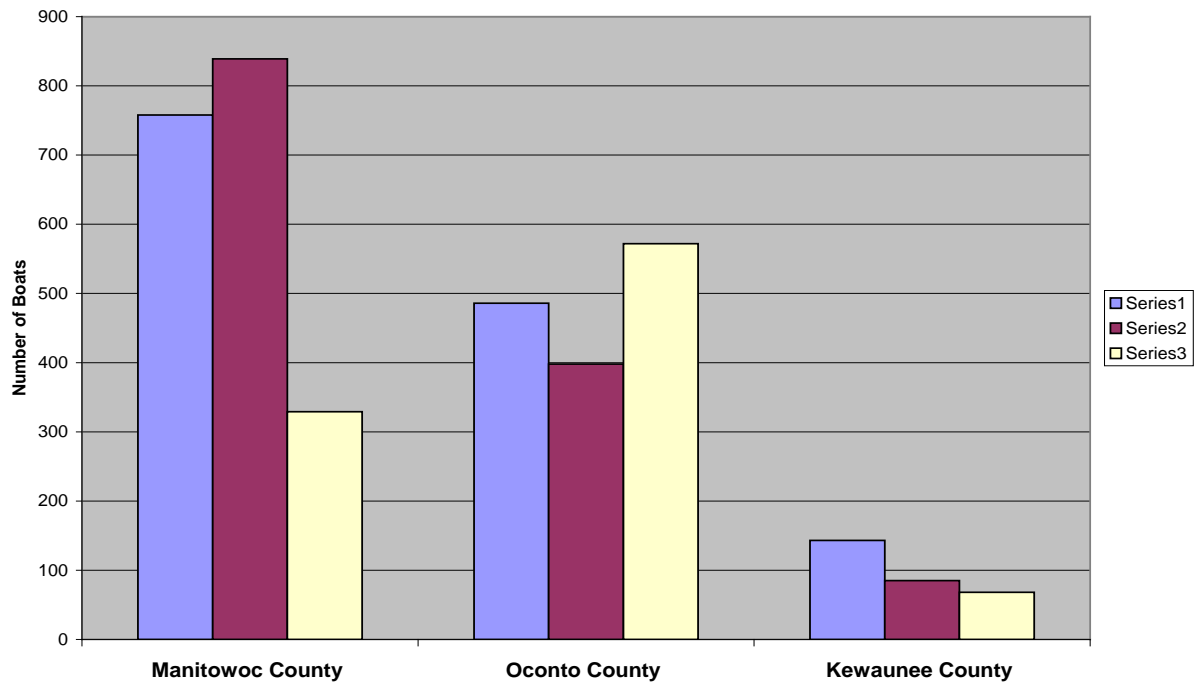


*# of Boats inspected 2012 to 2014*

*# of People contacted thru RC&D project 2012- 14*

*“2013 was a very cold wet spring reducing the amount of boating, 2014 had less hours”*

Number of Boats inspected for the Grant years 2012-2014



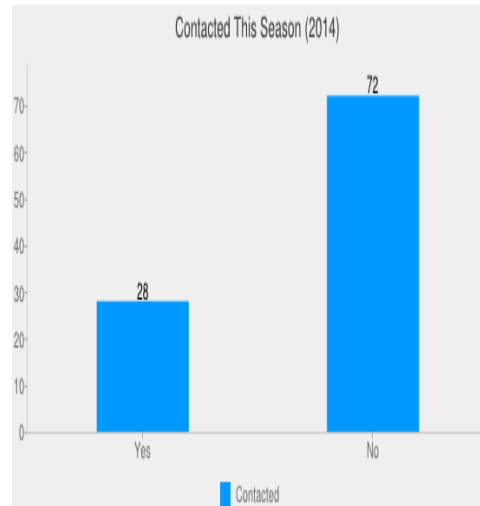
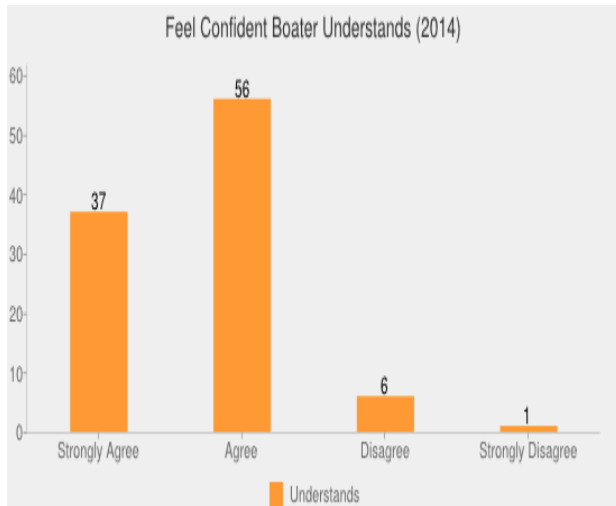
**Oconto County inspector was able to start in May and maintain the inspection rate or hours; Manitowoc and Kewanee Counties were impacted by the inspector turnover by not getting trained inspectors on the ground until the end of June.**

### **Boater Knowledge of the boat inspection & prevention procedures**

In 2014 the CWCB Watercraft Inspection Form 3200-120 (4-14), was redesigned to function better as an educational prompt for inspectors. I had served on the DNR's revision committee. The new form allowed us to track and rate boaters knowledge of the inspection/prevention procedures compared to the previous years question if they knew the law.

I had trained the project inspectors to define the Strongly Agree entry as to the boater knowing all the procedures and willingness to conduct them; Agree category was defined as boaters that demonstrated a good working knowledge of the procedures based on prompt questions prior to the inspection; the disagree category was reserved for individuals that demonstrated no knowledge of the procedures (1<sup>st</sup> time boaters) or boaters that failed to mention or conduct a major step of the inspection such as remove or drain.

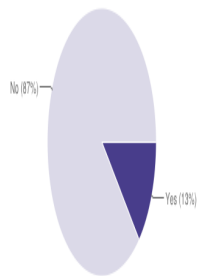
The graphs below are a summary of the Project in Oconto, Kewaunee and Manitowoc County paid RC&D efforts. In my opinion we have made good progress in education of boaters on CBCW prevention steps. The 6% or 7% represent a number of boaters that were totally unaware of the procedures. In the Agree category we have boaters that know the basic steps but may be weak on knowledge to ice their catch, clean off components in the boats or steps to take such as cleaning if the return to a lake within the 5 day period.



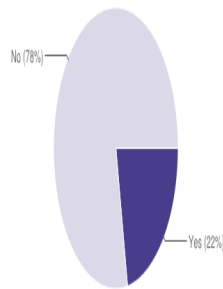
**72% of the boaters were not inspected more than once during the boating season which implies that we are not doing a high % of repeat boaters. Inspectors also estimate that over 20% of the boaters are first time or out of County or State people not familiar with prevention steps. Based on these numbers and our experience with rating knowledge level there appears to be a minimum level of inspections that should be done every year to maintain our current education of Clean Boat procedures.**

**Boat Inpection Trends**

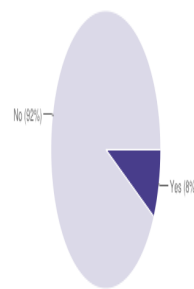
Boat Used During Past 5 Days On Different Waterbody y? (2010-2013)



Boat Used During Past 5 Days On Different Waterbody y? (2010-2013)



Boat Used During Past 5 Days On Different Waterbody y? (2010-2013)



Manistowoc 13%

Oconto 22%

Kewaunee 8%

**Vacationers in Oconto County tend to travel to more water bodies in a week.**

### Summary & Recommendations: of the 3 year project

- **Hiring a local resident is beneficial to providing educational background with boaters as to why protecting our lakes is beneficial.**
- **Hiring a local resident would allow the project to start earlier in May before students are available and expend more hours in May, June and early July when more boaters are active.**
- **Trained paid inspectors thru this project over a multi county area allow for a uniformity and amount of data that provides for a comparison of Boater behavior knowledge of CBCW prevention steps.**
- **Larger Lakes with Associations can qualify to hire its own inspectors; this project allows Lakes that do not have sufficient volume of boaters to have inspectors.**
- **This project provided an opportunity for Counties like Brown and Kewaunee that did not have a Clean Boats program to educate their boaters on AIS and Oconto County to have added additional inspectors to meet the need for their many lakes and large County area.**
- **This project compliments the AIS projects in Calumet, Oconto and Manitowoc County where additional boat inspection efforts are critical.**
- **Annual weather condition effects the level of boater usage and activity by year.**
- **The inspectors estimated that there are over 20% new boaters or boaters coming from Counties without inspections that are not familiar with CBCW inspection procedures. 2014 data also demonstrated that 72% of the boaters were not contacted more than once during the boating season. Based on this information there remains a need to maintain a presence at our boat launches to insure compliance and train new or incoming boaters to prevent a continued spread of new invasives.**
- **Oconto County recently lost their AIS Coordinator to other employment and would make it difficult to submit a multi county application for next year 2015. It is my recommendation that Manitowoc, Kewaunee, and Sheboygan Counties continue a paid inspector program.**