

Lake Owen Association 2023 AIS Decontamination Report¹

Boats Inspected and Hours of Coverage

The number of boats inspected at the North Outlet Landing declined from 2019 through 2022, then rebounded a bit in 2023. Hours of coverage at the North Landing increased from 700 in 2022 to 828 in 2023 (see graphs on page 3). The decontamination station was first operational at the landing September 2020. The bleach station was installed at the campground June 22, 2023. For both landings, about 0.75 boats/hour were inspected entering the lake. No wake boats were observed entering the lake when the North Landing was staffed.

North Outlet Landing Boats Inspected (entering)

2019: 1870 (1181 entering)
2020: 990 (753 entering)
2021: 552 (499 entering)
2022: 444 (420 entering)
2023: 779 (621 entering)

Two Lakes Campground Boats Inspected (entering)

2019: 484 (321 entering)
2020: 461 (286 entering)
2021: 325 (217 entering)
2022: 164 (152 entering)
2023: 464 (335 entering)

The Otter Bay landing was staffed only on June 23 prior to a fishing tournament when 2 boats entered the lake. In Bayfield County as a whole, numbers were down in 2020, rebounded in 2021, and were lower again in 2022 and 2023.

Landing Use: Days and Hours

Boat landing use was measured with a TrafX data recorder in 2023.² The LOA generally staffed the North Outlet landing 7 days/week: from 8am-4pm, M-F and 6:30am-5:30pm, Sat and Sun. The campground landing was generally staffed Friday 10-8, Saturday 7-2, and Sunday 10-6. Hours staffed were, in part, due to staff availability.

Based on TrafX data (graphs on following pages), the LOA does appear to be staffing during times of peak use – except North Landing would have better coverage extending to 5 pm. However, we are certainly missing some boaters, and traffic at the campground and Otter Bay is not matched by coverage at the landings.

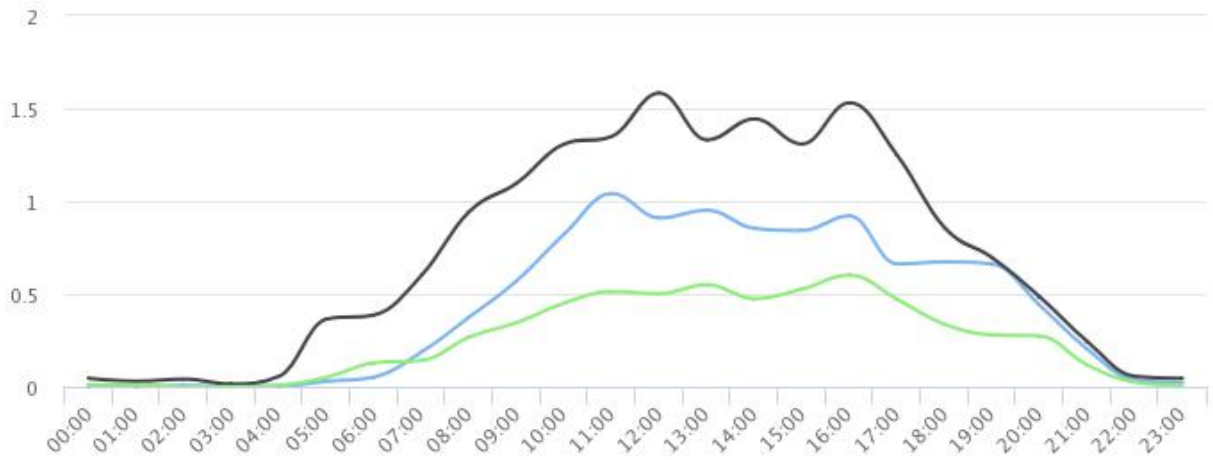
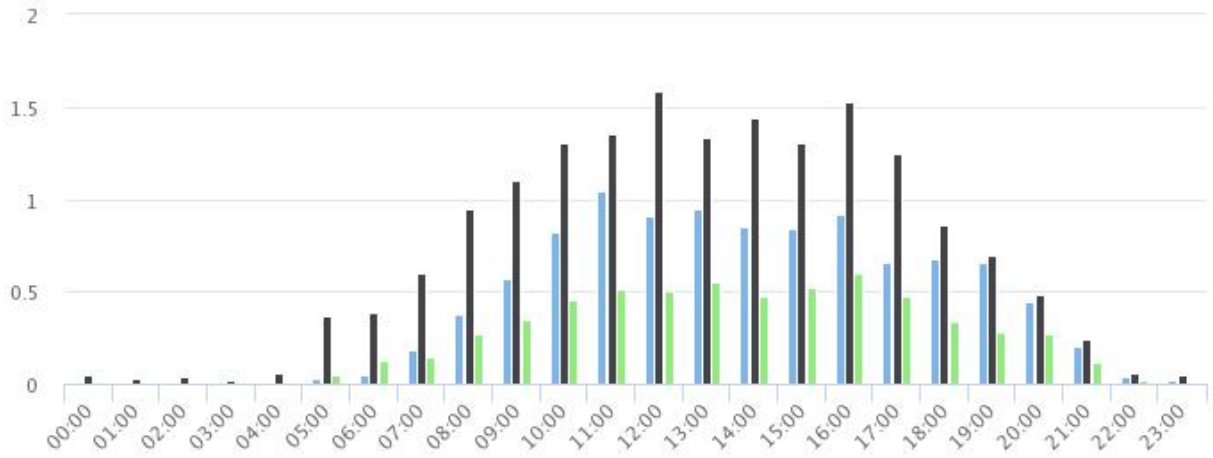
¹ Sources: CBCW DNR reports and data, Decontamination inspection reports, TrafX landing data.

² TrafX records when a heavy metal object (such as a vehicle with trailer) is present at a landing. TrafX is set to record every 5 minutes, the approximate time it takes to load or unload a boat. Results presented have been divided by 2 because both loading and unloading are captured. These data may over-count boats landing because any vehicle present would be recorded, but results should be comparable between landings.

Hours of the day

2023-06-01 to 2023-10-11

Hourly averages



Site Name	Average	Median	STDV	Min	Max
LO Campground Landing (FD)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	1.0
LO North Landing (FD)	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.0	1.6
LO Otter Bay Landing (AFD)	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.6

(A) = adjustment applied

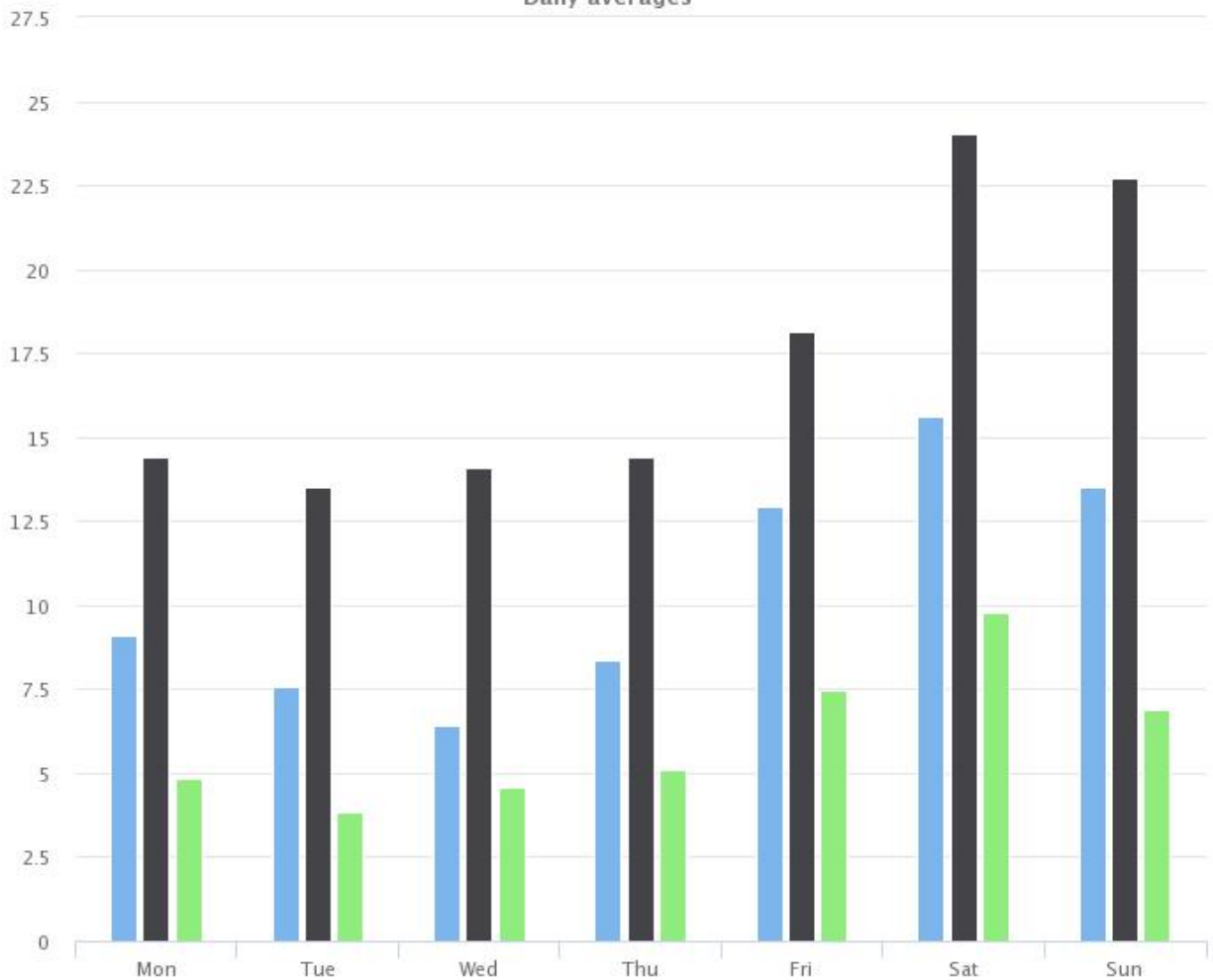
(D) = divide by 2 applied

(F) = filtering applied

Days of the week

2023-06-01 to 2023-10-11

Daily averages



Site Name	Average	Median	STDV	Min	Max
LO Campground Landing (FD)	10.5	9.1	3.2	6.4	15.6
LO North Landing (FD)	17.3	14.4	4.1	13.5	24.1
LO Otter Bay Landing (AFD)	6.1	5.1	1.9	3.8	9.8

(A) = adjustment applied

(D) = divide by 2 applied

(F) = filtering applied

North Outlet Results

The north landing was staffed from 5/26/23 through 10/2/23. In 2023, 158 boats were decontaminated at the Lake Owen North Outlet hot water, high pressure decontamination station. This represents 25% of boats that entered Lake Owen when the landing was staffed, up from 13% in 2022. The last lake visited for decontaminated boats included Namakagon – 27 boats (hybrid Eurasian water milfoil), Lake Superior – 17 boats, (EWM, Zebra Mussels), St. Croix River and Deer Lake (ZM), Middle Eau Claire – 11 boats (curly leaf pondweed), Lake Hayward, Chippewa Flowage (7 boats), and Round Lake (EWM).

In 2022, 54 boats were decontaminated at the station. In 2021, 22 boats were decontaminated.

Campground Results

The campground landing was staffed from 6/8/23 to 9/24/23. Most frequent lake of concern for boats that entered at the campground landing in 2023 was Lake Namakagon (HWM), followed by Lake Superior (EWM, Zebra Mussels). Other lakes of concern reported: Sissabagama (EWM), Chippewa Flowage (EWM), Eau Claire Lakes (CLP), Lake Wissota (CLP, EWM). Most of the boaters (43%) report coming from Bass Lake which is across the road. In 2023, staff reported that 20 boats were decontaminated using the bleach station.

Improvements from 2022

- We recruited and retained 5 staff. Although staff were not always available when needed, we had better coverage than in past years.
- More decontaminations were completed, and paperwork completion continues to improve.
- TrafX data will enable us to better target staffing to boat traffic at the landings.

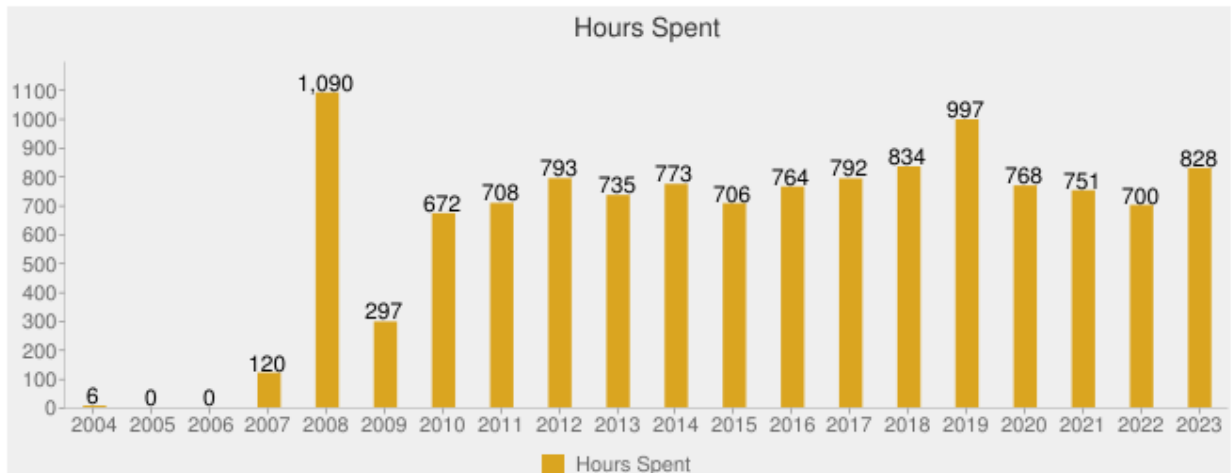
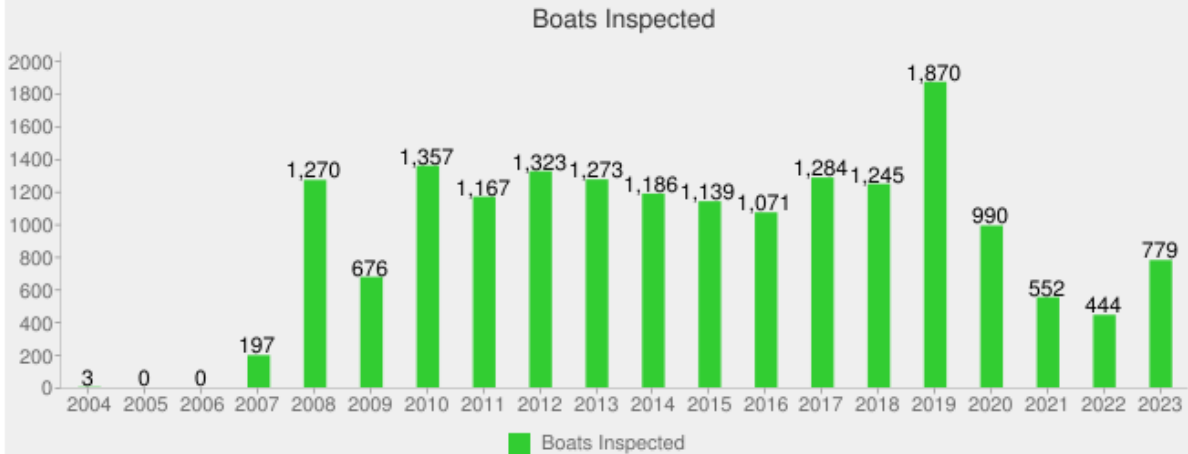
Concerns from 2023

- Signage with instructions for operating the campground AIS decontamination station was posted relatively late in the season.
- Staffing remains a challenge, and coverage for AIS prevention is not complete.

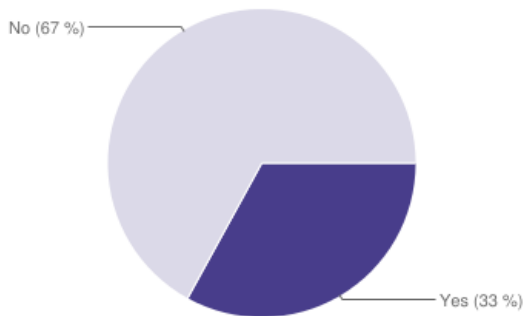
Lake Owen Access -- Northwest Side Of Lake

Location: ▼

Watercraft Inspection Efforts **Boater Statistics** **Boater Travel** **Projects** **Download**



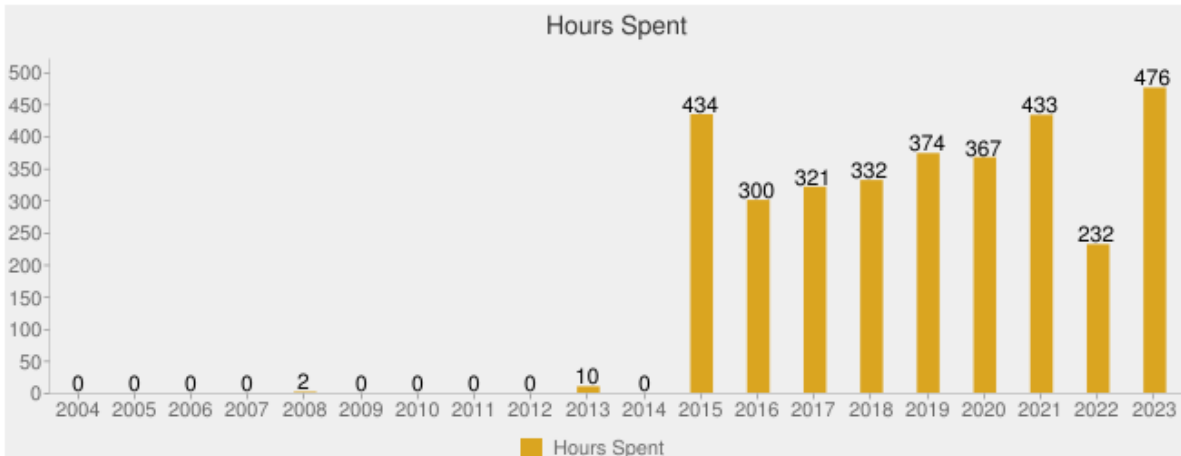
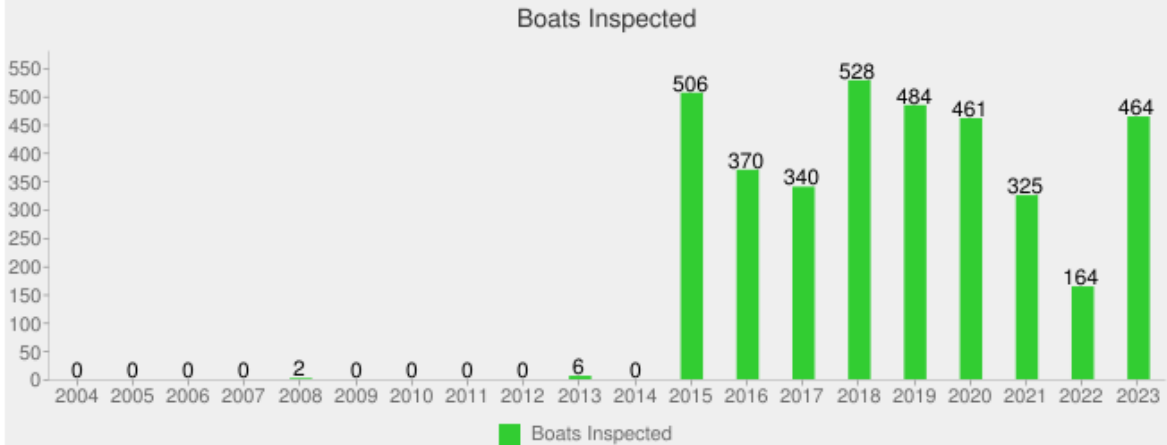
Boat Used Past 5 Days On Different Waterbody?



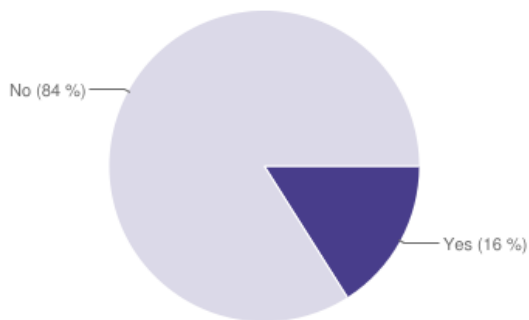
Owen Lake -- Access at Campground Launch Near Bass Lake

Location:

- Watercraft Inspection Efforts
- Boater Statistics
- Boater Travel
- Projects
- Download



Boat Used Past 5 Days On Different Waterbody?



Watercraft Inspection Results - Bayfield County

Location: ▼

Watercraft Inspection Efforts

Boater Statistics

Boater Travel

Projects

Landings

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