



Clean Boats, Clean Waters 2023 Season Report

Overview

In 2023, Clean Lakes Alliance completed its second season of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) program. Clean Boats, Clean Waters is a state-wide aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention program aimed at increasing awareness and education to boaters, anglers, and general lake users on best practices to prevent the further spread of AIS at our local boat landings.

Aquatic invasive species can have broad and detrimental effects on our lakes. Many of these species are commonly introduced to new water bodies by “hitchhiking” on watercraft and surviving inside undrained live wells. To address the issue, trained inspectors offered courtesy boat and trailer inspections at four of the busiest boat launches located on the Yahara lakes: Olin, Olbrich, Marshall, and Warner. Clean Lakes Alliance also coordinated with the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department, which covered two additional locations: Lake Waubesa (Lake Farm Boat Launch) and Lake Kegonsa (Fish Camp Boat Launch).



Courtesy watercraft inspections serve as a front-line defense against emerging AIS threats. Educating our lake users on how to identify and report AIS and how to implement best management strategies when moving watercraft between water bodies provides additional safeguards for our lakes against harmful invasives.

Program Highlights

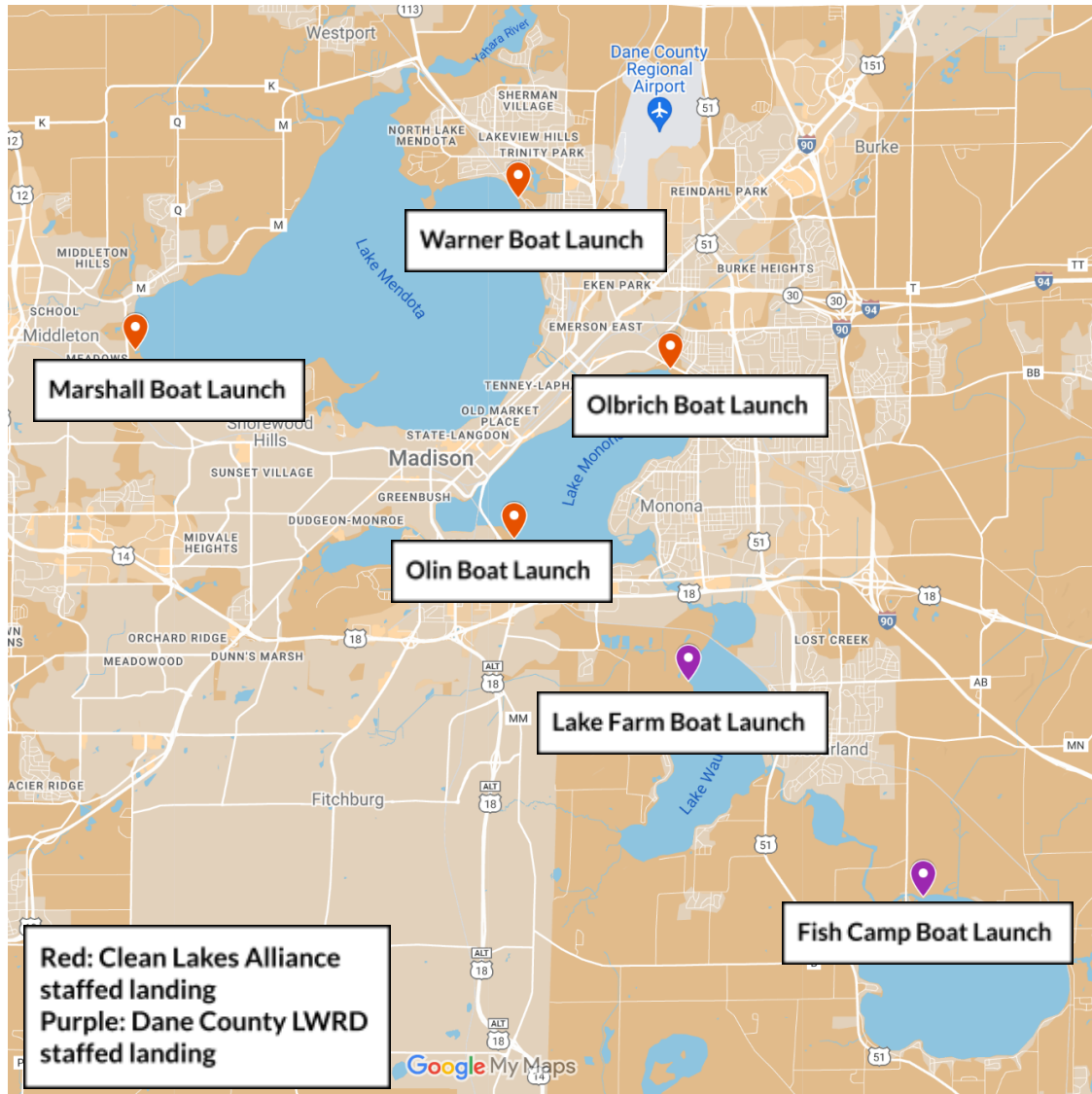
- Grant funding awarded through Wisconsin DNR’s Surface Water Grant Program
- Hired and trained 2 LTE Watercraft Inspectors
- AIS and watercraft inspection training for LTEs provided by Dane County Land and Water Resources Department (Pete Jopke) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Shelby Adler)
- 410 inspection hours as part of 118 weekday and weekend shifts throughout the boating season (May 24, 2022 - September 11, 2022)
- 4,079 lake user interactions at four boat landings (Marshall, Warner, Olin, and Olbrich)





Clean Boats, Clean Waters 2023 Season Report

Landing locations:





Clean Boats, Clean Waters 2023 Season Report

Program Details

a. Training and Scheduling

On May 23, 2023, watercraft inspectors began the season with training on conducting inspections, identifying invasive species, and best practices for interacting with and educating boaters. Dane County has participated in the CBCW program for several years and played a lead role in the training. Inspectors also received supplemental online training offered through the UW Extension Lakes website, as well as guidance from Clean Lakes Alliance coordinators on program and outreach goals.

Once trained, inspectors were assigned locations and timeframes to ensure adequate coverage at each landing. When making this calendar, inspector hours were skewed to the weekends when boat landings are typically at their busiest. A smaller percentage of shifts were allocated to weekday mornings and early evenings to reach anglers and mid-week lake users. Inspector shifts were anywhere from 3-4 hours each, based on inspector preference and availability. One inspector was stationed at any given boat landing at a time. Inspectors rotated among the boat landings, switching locations with each shift. As a condition of the grant, at least 200 hours of coverage was required for each set of paired landings (Lake Monona landings being one set and Lake Mendota landings being another set) for a minimum of 400 hours.



Boat Landings	Hours staffed	Total boater interactions
Marshall	92	1,373
Warner	95.5	925
Olin	127	1311
Olbrich	96	470
Totals:	410.5	4,079



Clean Boats, Clean Waters 2023 Season Report

Inspector Name	Total hours worked	Total shifts
Sydney Kerstein	232	67
Quintin Calhoun	178.5	51

b. Watercraft Inspector Responsibilities

Watercraft inspectors started each interaction by introducing themselves and then asking questions upon the boaters' arrival or departure from the landing. All responses were recorded on data sheets provided by UW Extension Lakes. With CBCW being a statewide program, questions were predetermined.

Questions posed to all boat launch users:

- Are you willing to answer a few questions?
- Have you been contacted by a watercraft inspector this season?
- Has your boat been used on another body of water in the past 5 days? If so, where?

The questions are designed to collect valuable data on lake user habits and possible patterns in AIS transfers and help foster conversation between inspectors and boat launch users. After boat launch users responded to the set questions, we encouraged inspectors to further engage boaters by asking what questions they had regarding AIS. Inspectors had several outreach flyers, program brochures, and supplemental information for those who requested takeaway materials to review later. Staff ended each conversation with friendly reminders on state requirements (Chapter NR 40) regarding live bait reuse, draining live wells, and removing all attached aquatic vegetation before leaving the boat landing. Courtesy watercraft inspections were offered and taken up by many boat owners. Watercraft and trailers were thoroughly inspected for any remaining plant debris, which was then removed.



After each shift was completed, inspectors entered their hours, location, and collected data into the Wisconsin DNR's SWIMS database.



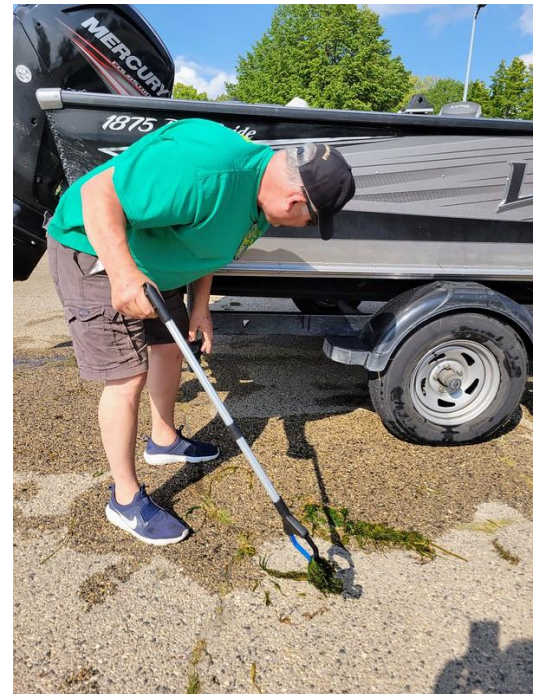
Clean Boats, Clean Waters 2023 Season Report

Chapter NR 40: The Invasive Species Identification, Classification, & Control Rule

The CBCW program utilizes the guidelines established in NR 40 to prevent the spread of invasive species within the state of Wisconsin. The rule establishes “preventive measures” to highlight what actions boaters can take to slow their spread. For all boaters, paddlers, and anglers, the following rules apply:

- INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment.
- REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading, and before transporting on a public highway).
- DRAIN water from boats, motors, and equipment.
- NEVER MOVE live fish away from a waterbody.
- DISPOSE of unwanted bait in the trash.
- BUY minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer. Use leftover minnows only under the following conditions:
 - You may take leftover minnows away from any state water and use them again on that same water.
 - You may use leftover minnows on other waters only if no lake or river water or other fish were added to their container.

Our inspectors shared these requirements with each boat launch user and acted as a resource for those who wanted to learn more.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.

StopAquaticHitchhikers.org

2023 Results

Questions posed to all boat launch users:

- Are you willing to answer two questions (these numbers represent only one person per group)?
 - a. Yes - 2,379
 - b. No - 118



Clean Boats, Clean Waters 2023 Season Report

- Have you already been contacted by a watercraft inspector this season (these numbers represent only one person per group)?
 - a. Yes - 778
 - b. No - 1,603
- Has your boat been used on another body of water in the past 5 days?
 - a. No - 2,116
 - b. Yes - 252
 - i. If so, where:

Within the watershed:	No. of responses
Lake Mendota	56
Lake Monona	46
Lake Waubesa	67
Lake Kegonsa	21
Outside the watershed:	
Beaver Dam Lake (Dodge County)	2
Big Muskellunge (Vilas County)	2
Castle Rock Lake (Juneau County)	2
Cisco Chain of Lakes (Michigan)	1
Delavan Lake (Walworth County)	2
Eagle River (Vilas County)	1
Fox Lake (Dodge County)	2
Green Lake (Green Lake County)	2
Grindstone Lake (Sawyer County)	1
Lake Delton (Sauk County)	2
Lake Geneva (Walworth County)	2
Lake Koshkonong (Jefferson County)	4
Lake Mary/Lake Alexandria (Douglas County)	1
Lake Michigan	2
Lake Redstone (Sauk County)	2

Lake Ripley (Jefferson County)	2
Lake Winnebago	1
Lake Winnebago	2
Lake Wisconsin	17
Little Arbor Vitae Lake (Vilas County)	1
Mississippi River	6
Petenwell Lake (Sauk County)	1
Plum Lake (Vilas County)	1
Rock Lake (Jefferson County)	4
Rock River (Jefferson County)	1
Shawano Lake (Shawano County)	1
Sturgeon Bay (Door County)	1
Willow Flowage (Oneida County)	1
Wisconsin River	4
Yellowstone Lake (Iowa County)	2
Declined/unable to specify waterbody	13
Total:	276

Note: If a boater mentioned more than one location within the 5 day window, all locations were accounted for resulting in a higher number of locations, than total responses.



Clean Boats, Clean Waters 2023 Season Report

The numbers above reflect a general receptiveness of lake users to interact with the inspectors and answer questions. Less than 1% of boat launch users declined to speak with an inspector. If launch users did not want to engage with an inspector, we did not push them to give responses.

It's worth noting that total interactions (4,079) represents the total number of individuals who were actively engaged with the inspectors. For example, if there were four people in a boat, and all four were participating in answering questions and sharing information, then all four individuals were tallied in this count. Conversely, if an inspector talked with a boater who had three others waiting on the dock that did not participate in the conversation, then only one individual was tallied for this count.

Questions regarding if boat launch users had been contacted by an inspector already this season and if they had their boat on another waterbody within the last 5 days were **only asked of the boat owners themselves** (not of the accompanying group). This resulted in fewer responses compared to total interactions. The number of responses to these questions is also lower than the total

interactions count due to shoreline anglers without watercraft being interviewed.



A point of discrepancy with the total number of interactions is if a boat launch user stated they had already been contacted by an inspector earlier in the season. These responses were still tallied and recorded for that day regardless if they had interacted with an inspector on a prior occurrence. We are unable to determine how

many of the total interactions are repeats. Because CBCW is a statewide program, many people shared that they had previously interacted with either other Clean Lakes Alliance inspectors, Dane County staff, or CBCW inspectors in other counties.