



2016 Lake Vermilion Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Report



Background

North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District (NSLSWCD) acted as the Local Governing Unit (LGU) in implementation of the 2016 Vermilion Lake Association (VLA) Watercraft Inspection Program. NSLSWCD was granted St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention funds to purchase watercraft decontamination units for use in conjunction with the VLA Watercraft Inspection Program. Watercraft inspections were conducted 5/13/16 – 10/30/16 at 11 public accesses and 4 private accesses. NSLSWCD purchased two Landa ECOS 7000 portable and self-contained decontamination units stationed at the Y-Store (Tower) and the Country Store (Cook). Decontamination units were staffed 6/03/16 – 9/24/16.

Level 1 Inspectors have DNR authorization to inspect watercraft and deny access if necessary. Level 2 Inspectors have all Level 1 authorization, as well as authorization to use decontamination equipment.

Summary

- Total Watercraft Inspector Hours: 6,979
 - Level 1 Inspector Hours: 5,688
 - Level 2 Inspector Hours: 1,291
- Total Watercraft Inspections: 12,562
 - Entering Inspections: 6,755
 - Exiting Inspections: 5,784
 - Courtesy Inspections: 23
- Inspections Per Hour: 2.2
- Entering from In-State: 6,075 (90%)
- Entering from Out-of-State: 680 (10%)
- Drain Plug in on Arrival: 62 (0.9%)
- Vegetation/Water/Mud on Arrival: 34 (0.5%)
- Require 1-way Transport for Prohibited Species: 11
- Number of Decontaminations: 240 (4%)
 - Y Store (Tower): 135
 - Country Store (Cook): 105

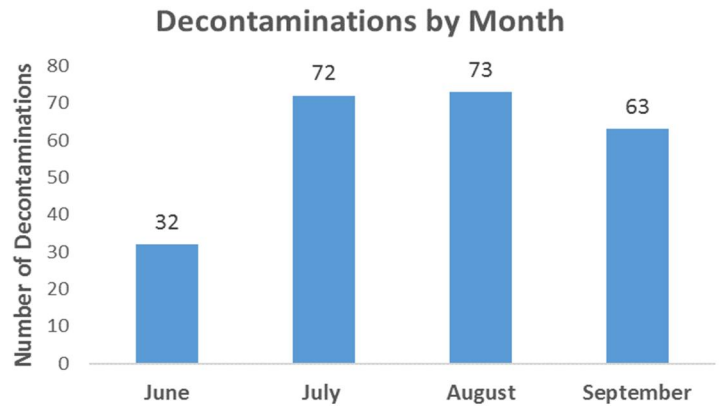
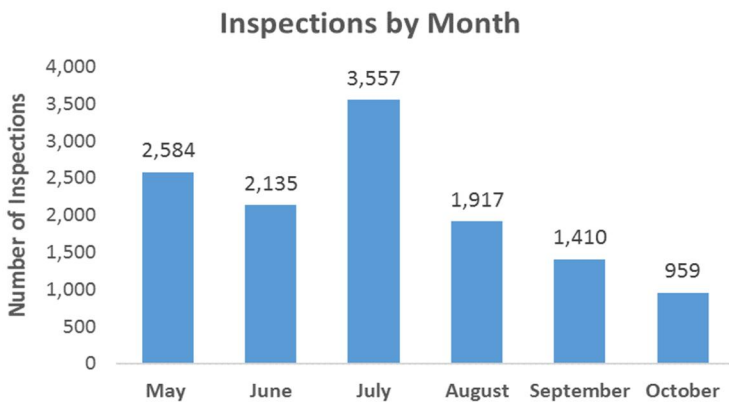


Figure 1. Total number of inspections per month in 2016.

Figure 2. Total number of decontaminations per month in 2016.



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Inspected Watercraft

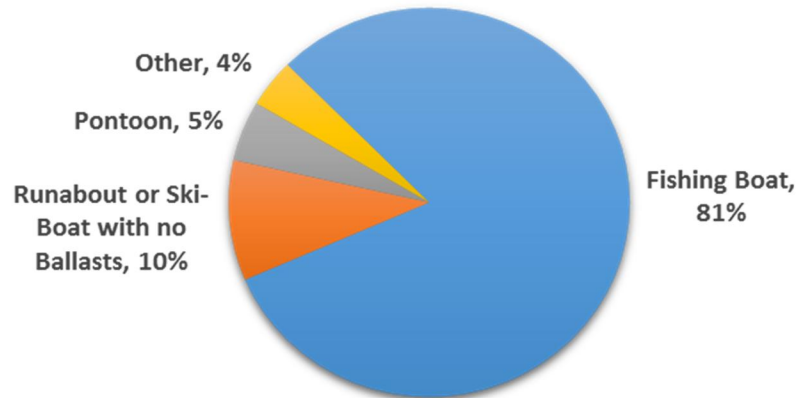


Figure 3. Percentage of entering and exiting watercraft inspected by type in 2016. 81% were fishing boats, 10% runabouts or ski-boats with no ballasts, 5% pontoons, and 4% other. Other: 2% personal watercrafts, 1.1% canoes/kayaks/or similar, 0.5% jon boats, 0.2% wakeboard boats with ballasts, 0.1% sailboats, 0.1% boatlifts/docks/or similar.

Species	Watercraft Coming from Infested Waters
Eurasian Water Milfoil	329
Zebra Mussels	319
Faucet Snail	124
Flowering Rush	70
Big Head Carp	69
Silver Carp	69
Grass Carp	62
New Zealand Mud Snail	56
White Perch	56
Round Goby	56
Ruffe	56
VHS	56
Starry Stonewort	20
Total	1,342

Table 1. The documented number of opportunities for the potential introduction of new invasive species into Lake Vermilion in 2016. Of the 6,755 entering inspections in 2016, there were 1,342 opportunities for the potential introduction of a new invasive species into Lake Vermilion. *Nearly 20% of watercraft posed a risk for spreading AIS.* This excludes spiny water flea, as Lake Vermilion is currently designated as spiny water flea infested waters.