



NFCRWD AIS BOAT INSPECTION REPORT

2016 Boat Inspection Summary

January, 2017

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The North Fork Crow River Watershed District (NFCRWD) hired Lamb Labor Services to staff Level 1 watercraft inspectors, May - November, during 2016. The inspectors were trained by the MN DNR to inspect boats entering and exiting public boat accesses on the District's recreational lakes. Contributors to the project included the MN DNR, Meeker County, Paynesville TWP, Koronis Lake Association, Rice Lake Association, City of Paynesville, Grove Lake Association, Union Grove TWP, Stearns, County, Pope County and the NFCRWD. The MN DNR also staffed watercraft inspectors at Lake Koronis and Rice Lake during 2016.

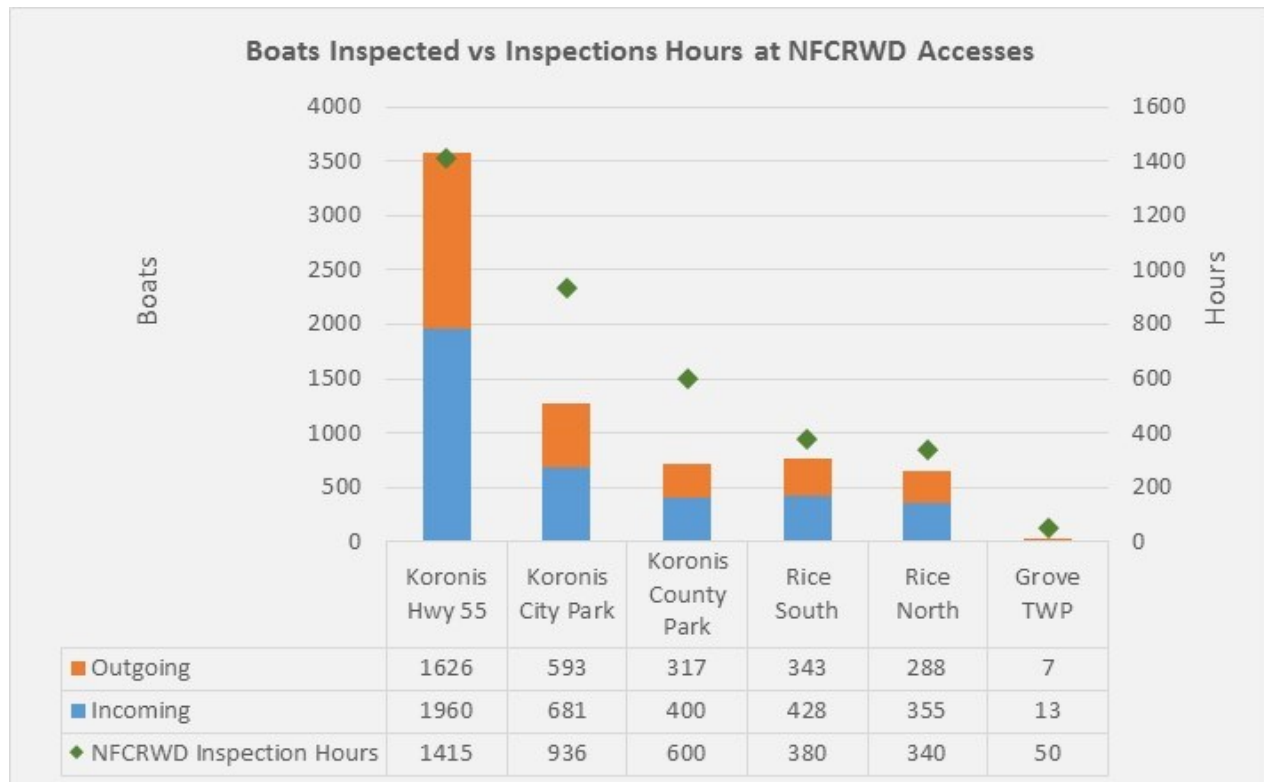
Why are We Inspecting Boats?

During each watercraft inspection, the inspectors completed a DNR survey (results of questions are represented in tables and graphs), discussed MN AIS laws with boaters and completed a visual and physical inspection of boats entering or exiting waterways. Completing these processes with boaters increases the knowledge of AIS and self-inspection techniques, reduces the risk for AIS infestation in District waters, and can stop AIS contaminated boats from launching.

Starry Stonewort Update

Starry stonewort is a grass-like form of algae that are not native to North America. The plant was first confirmed in Lake Koronis in 2015 and Rice Lake in 2016. Starry stonewort can interfere with recreational and other uses of lakes where it can produce dense mats at the water's surface. (cont. page 2)

“The mission of the NFCRWD is to improve and enhance water quality, to control water flow, to reduce erosion and sedimentation, to promote wise public, private and natural use of water while maintaining, enhancing and preserving public and private drainage for present and future residents of the Watershed District.”



Starry stonewort is an invasive green alga that has spread rapidly within some northern-tier lakes. It can grow tall and dense, forming mats on the surface that interfere with recreation and potentially displacing native plant species. MAISRC researchers are currently performing ecological niche modeling to assess risk of spread in Minnesota as well as laboratory experiments to assess how long it can survive out of water and to evaluate the efficacy of herbicides and algaecides while minimizing non-target impacts.

What it is

The scientific name for starry stonewort is *Nitellopsis obtusa*. It is a type of freshwater green algae known as a charophyte, a group that also includes muskgrasses and stoneworts (*Chara* and *Nitella* species) that are native to Minnesota. Starry stonewort is native to parts of Europe and Asia.

What it affects

Where starry stonewort grows densely and forms surface mats, it can interfere with boating and other recreational activities. Dense growth may also displace native plants and could potentially have impacts on fish and other animals. Starry stonewort's ecological impacts are not well understood, and there has been little published research to date.

How it spreads

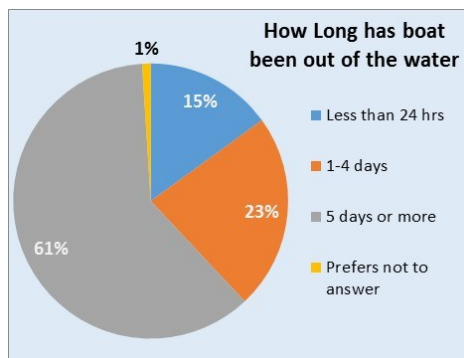
Starry stonewort appears to be spreading vegetatively in the U.S. (by bulbils and fragments). Accidental movement by people is the most likely means of dispersal. Many of the known infestations occur in high-use waterbodies and near boat accesses.

(University of Minnesota)

<http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/starry-stonewort>



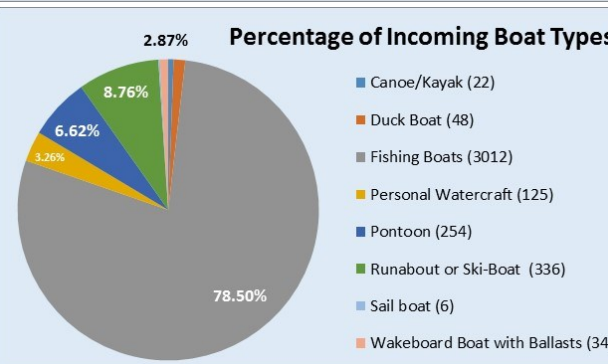
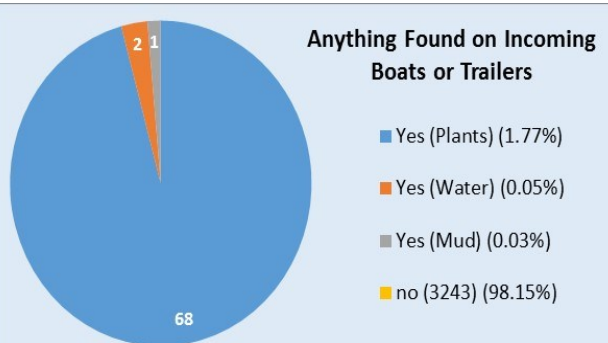
What was Learned from Inspections?



Drain Plug on Arrival	
In	54
Out	3783

Why is this Important?

Zebra Mussels are transferred when attached to boats, trailers, docks, boat lifts or other equipment that are placed in water. The juvenile mussels can be transferred from lake to lake in a very small amount of water. Having a drain plug in a boat can greatly increase the spread of zebra mussels. Zebra Mussels can also survive out of water on boats or other water equipment for 31 days, depending on weather conditions. A boat or other water equipment coming from a contaminated lake that is not completely dry or decontaminated (high pressure wash with 140°F water) can spread zebra mussels.



Grant Funds and Contributions 2016 AIS Program

Stearns County	\$ 35,000
RLA	\$ 5,000
GLA	\$ 300
City of Paynesville	\$ 4,300
Meeker Co (thru KLA)	\$ 10,000
Paynesville TWP	\$ 7,500
Union GroveTWP (thru KLA)	\$ 1,500
KLA	\$ 10,769.61
Pope County	\$ 5460
2016 Total	\$ 68,329.61
NFCRWD In-Kind Hours	~88 hrs

Watercraft Decontamination:

Decontamination units are self contained, high pressure, high heat wash units that allow us decontaminate watercraft at the public water access without allowing any of the wash water to run off.

Why Decontaminate? To ensure that zebra and quagga mussels and other AIS are killed and removed. (MNDNR)

Find Decon Stations Here:
https://webapps15.dnr.state.mn.us/ais_decon_sites

