

2023 CROW WING COUNTY AIS PREVENTION PLAN WRAP-UP PRESENTATION

November 29th, 2023



1

Topics to be Discussed Today

2023 AIS Prevention Plan

2023 AIS Budget

2023 AIS Data

Jessamyn Foley with the MN DNR

Wrap-up and final questions



2

2023 AIS PREVENTION PLAN

3

Crow Wing County Inspection Season

- CWC watercraft inspectors started inspecting watercrafts as scheduled on May 14th “Fishing Opener” weekend.
- Last inspection day was September 24th



4

2023 Watercraft Inspectors: Significant Changes

- New inspectors received \$17 per hour.
- Experienced inspectors received \$18 per hour.
- Lead Inspector received \$19 per hour.



5

Crow Wing County Inspector Training

- County inspector training
- DNR Level I online training
- DNR Level I in person training
- DNR Level II online training
- DNR Level II in person training



6



2023 Watercraft Inspection Challenges

- Rising gas costs caused concerns with scheduling them closer to home.
- Pay increases.
- Concerns with Lake Service Providers not following rules.
- Bathrooms at landings.
- More eye catching, simpler handouts.

7

2023 CWC AIS Prevention Planning Process



September 2022: State of Minnesota allocated \$462,052 to CWC for local AIS prevention aid funds



\$505,283 allocated for watercraft inspections

This allocated amount includes hiring costs, salaries for inspections, trainings, supplies for inspectors, and a portion of Environmental Services Coordinators salary.



2022 Vs 2023 Watercraft Inspections

The 2023 plan allocated **16,155** inspection hours, an increase from 2022.

8

Starry Search Timeline

TASK	DEADLINE
Starry Search Program Presentation	Early-May
Lake Association Participation	Early-June
Lake Association AIS ID Training	Mid-July
Starry Search Sampling	July, August, Sept.
Starry Search Reporting	October
Starry Search Data Survey	October

Starry Search Program

- 2023 Funds Allocated: \$10,200
- 2023 Funds Distributed: \$3,000
- 6 lake associations participated in our Starry Search program and were incentivized by sampling lakes for AIS with public access.

9



2023 CWC EWM Treatment Grant

- Milfoil treatment: \$32,500
 - \$3,500 per-lake for treatment and surveying of EWM on 9 eligible lakes.
- The County approved \$500 towards a EWM survey to be conducted on Lake Ossawinamakee & Emily
- The County distributed \$28,500

10

AIS Outreach and Education Activities

- Sent Lake Associations bi-weekly updates.
- Local High School Outreach
- Highlighted AIS prevention and protection at the CWC Fair.
- Pelican Lakes Association Newsletter
- Inspector provided “Protect our Lakes!” towels at landings



11

Newly AIS Infested Lakes in Crow Wing County

2023

- 1: Gladstone (zebra mussels)

2022

- 2: Bass (zebra mussels) and Clear (zebra mussels).

2021

- 7: Lower South Long (zebra mussels and faucet snails), Smith (zebra mussels), Roe Mine (zebra mussels), Horseshoe (zebra mussels), Holt (zebra mussels), Barbour (zebra mussels).



12



2023 CWC AIS Early Prevention

- Early AIS Detection: \$2,900
- Zebra mussel veliger and Spiny water-flea testing were completed in July and August.
- All 20 lakes tested were free of zebra mussels and spiny water-flea.

13



2023 AIS BUDGET

14

2023 Budget

Revenue: \$462,052

- 2022 Rollover: \$115,807

Expenses: \$468,584

- Early AIS monitoring and detection: \$2,525
- Inspections: \$391,900
- Decon: \$42,659
- Grants: \$31,500
- Misc.: \$5,000

Estimated rollover: \$109,000

15

2023 AIS DATA

16



17

2023 AIS Risk Model

AIS Risk determines all allocated hours:

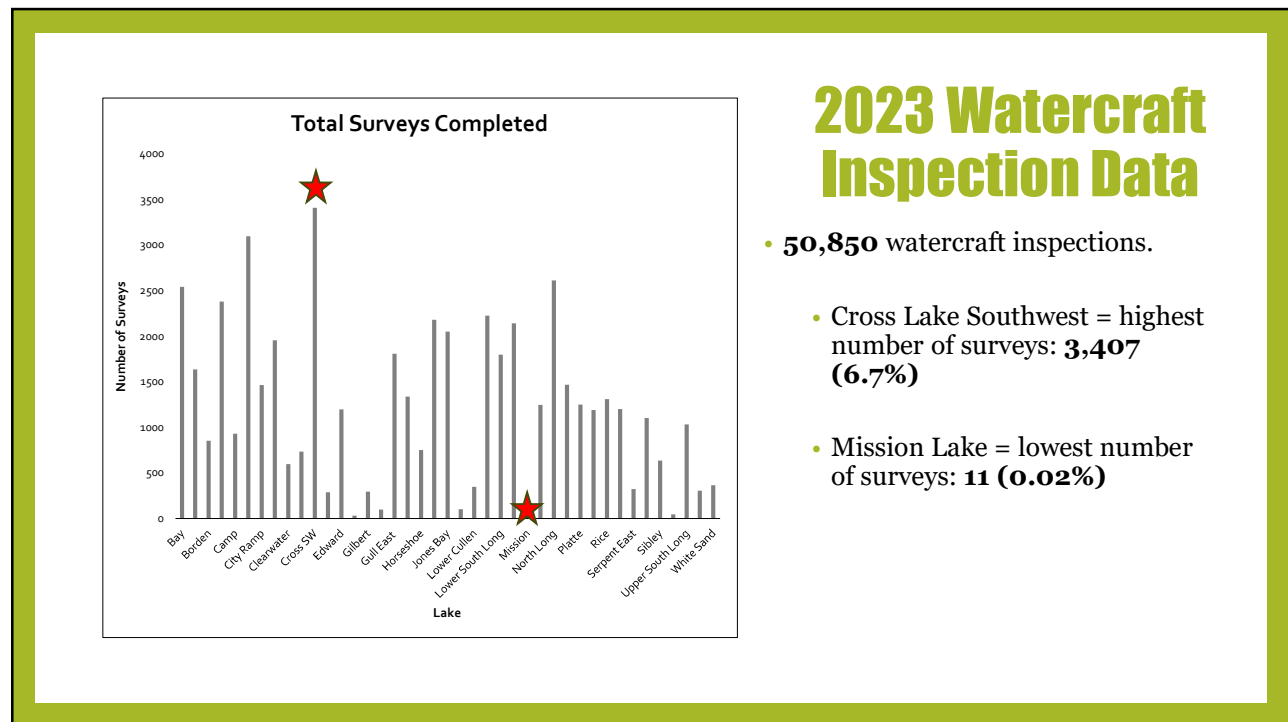
High-risk landings (22 landings):
Staffed 9am to 6pm, Friday to Sunday, beginning Fishing Opener and ending Labor Day weekend.

Moderate-risk landings (6 landings):
Staffed 9am to 6pm, Saturday and Sunday, beginning Fishing Opener and ending Labor Day weekend.

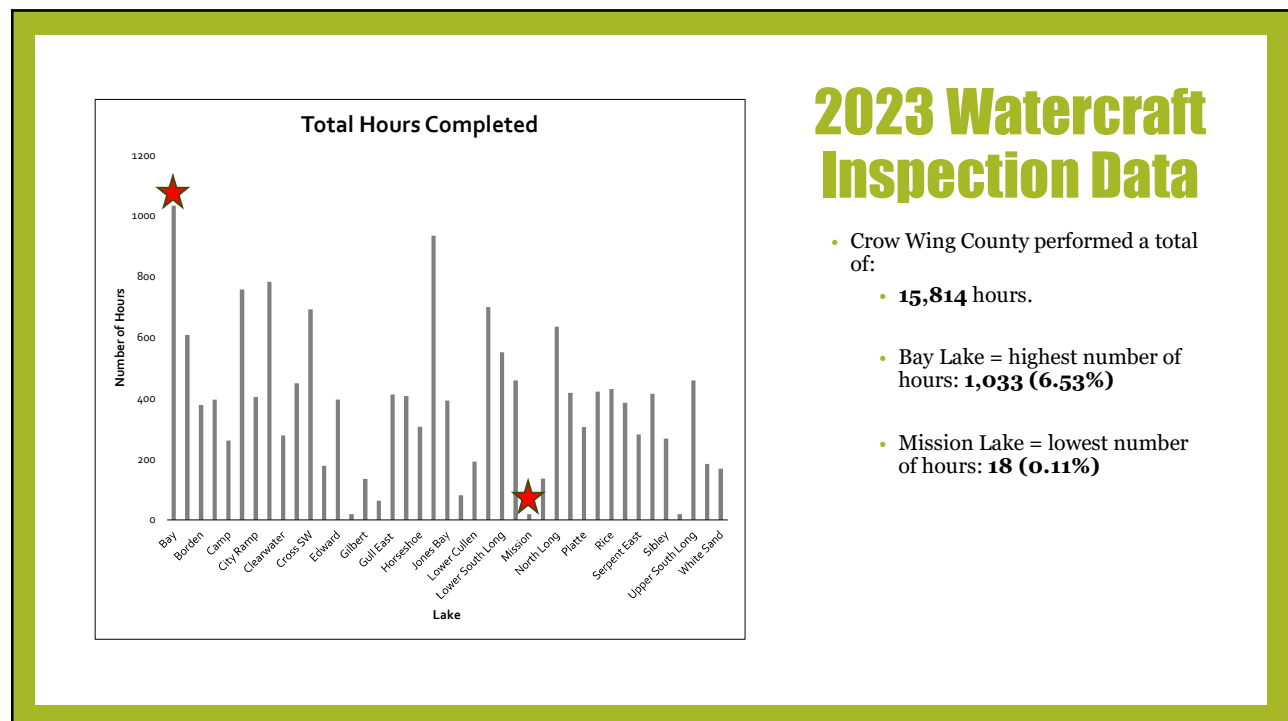
Low-risk landings (11 landings):
Staffed 9am to 6pm, Saturday and Sunday, beginning Memorial Weekend and ending Labor Day weekend.

Very low-risk landings (4 landings):
Staffed 9am to 6pm, on the three holiday weekends, Memorial, July 4th, and Labor Day.

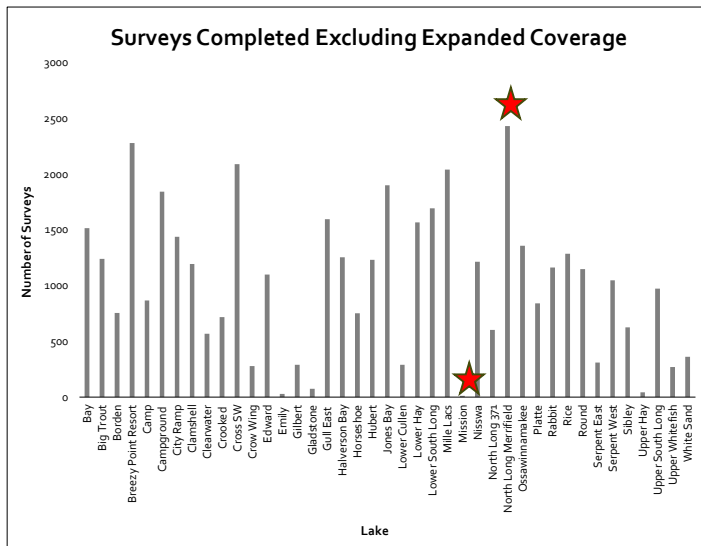
18



19



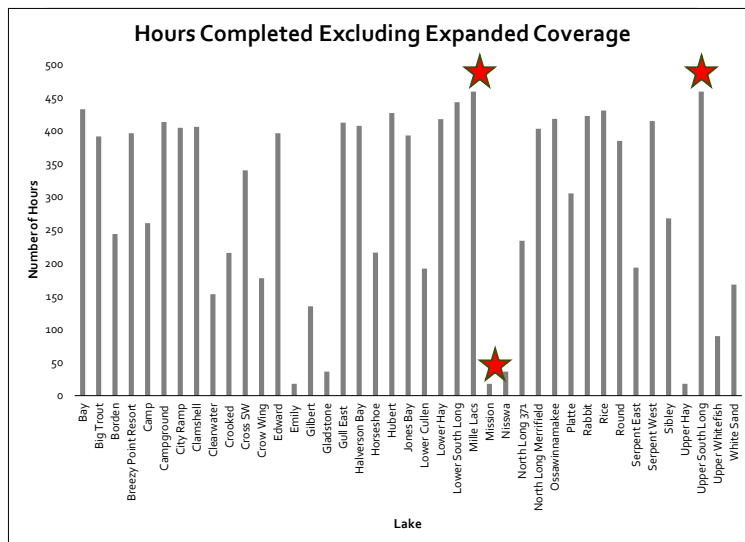
20



2023 Watercraft Inspection Data

- **42,274** watercraft inspections *excluding expanded coverage*.
- North Long Merrifield= highest number of surveys: **2,433 (5.88%)**
- Mission Lake = lowest number of surveys: **11 (0.02%)**

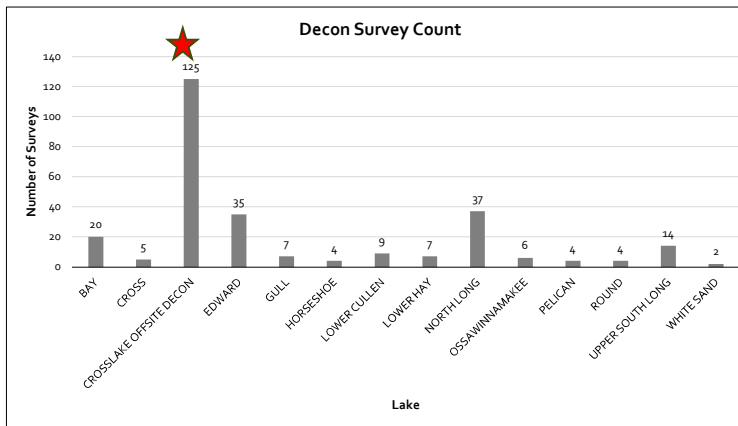
21



2023 Watercraft Inspection Data

- Excluding expanded coverage, Crow Wing County performed a total of:
 - **12,039.50** hours.
- Upper South Long & Mille Lacs = highest number of hours: **459 (3.81%)**
- Mission Lake = lowest number of hours: **18 (0.11%)**

22

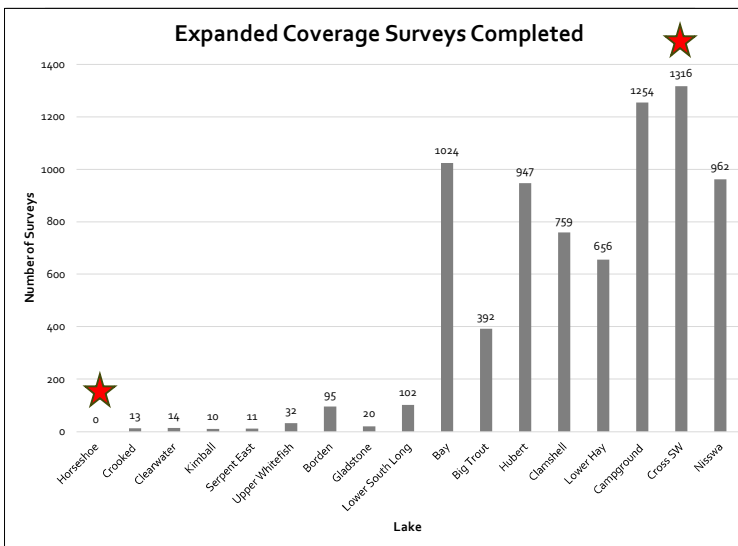


	Survey Count	Percent of Total
Total Decon	279	100%
Mobile Decon	154	55%
Crosslake Decon	125	45%

2023 Watercraft Inspection Data

- Crow Wing County performed **279** decon inspections over **1,179** hours.
- Crosslake Offsite Decon Station = Highest Survey County: **125 (44.80%)**
- White Sand = Lowest Survey Count: **2 (0.72%)**

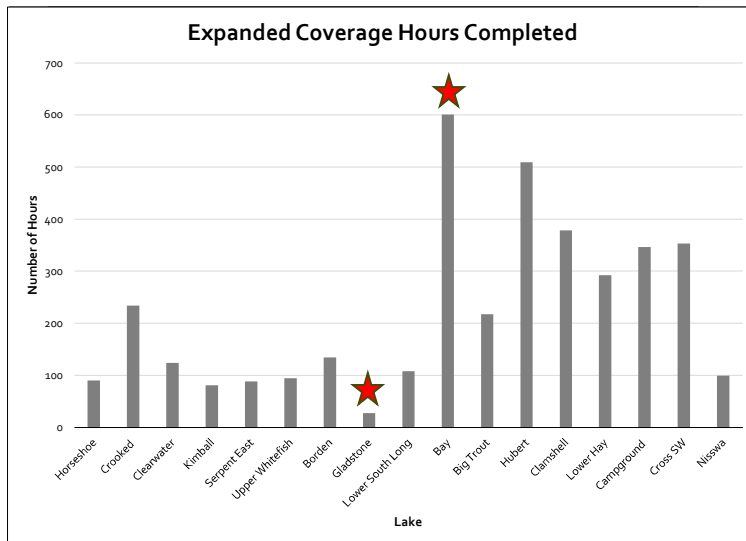
23



2023 Watercraft Inspection Data

- Crow Wing County performed a total of:
 - **7,607** Expanded Coverage Surveys.
- Crosslake SW = highest number of survey: **1,316 (17.30%)**
- Gladstone Lake = lowest number of survey: **0 (0.00%)**

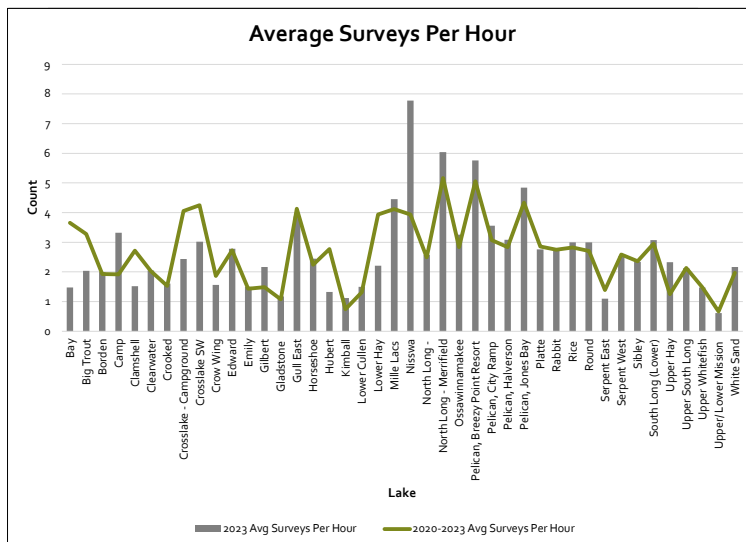
24



2023 Watercraft Inspection Data

- Crow Wing County performed a total of:
 - 5706** Hours requested
 - 3775** Expanded Coverage hours fulfilled
 - 66%** covered
 - Bay Lake = highest number of hours: **601 (15.92%)**
 - Gladstone Lake = lowest number of hours: **27 (0.72%)**

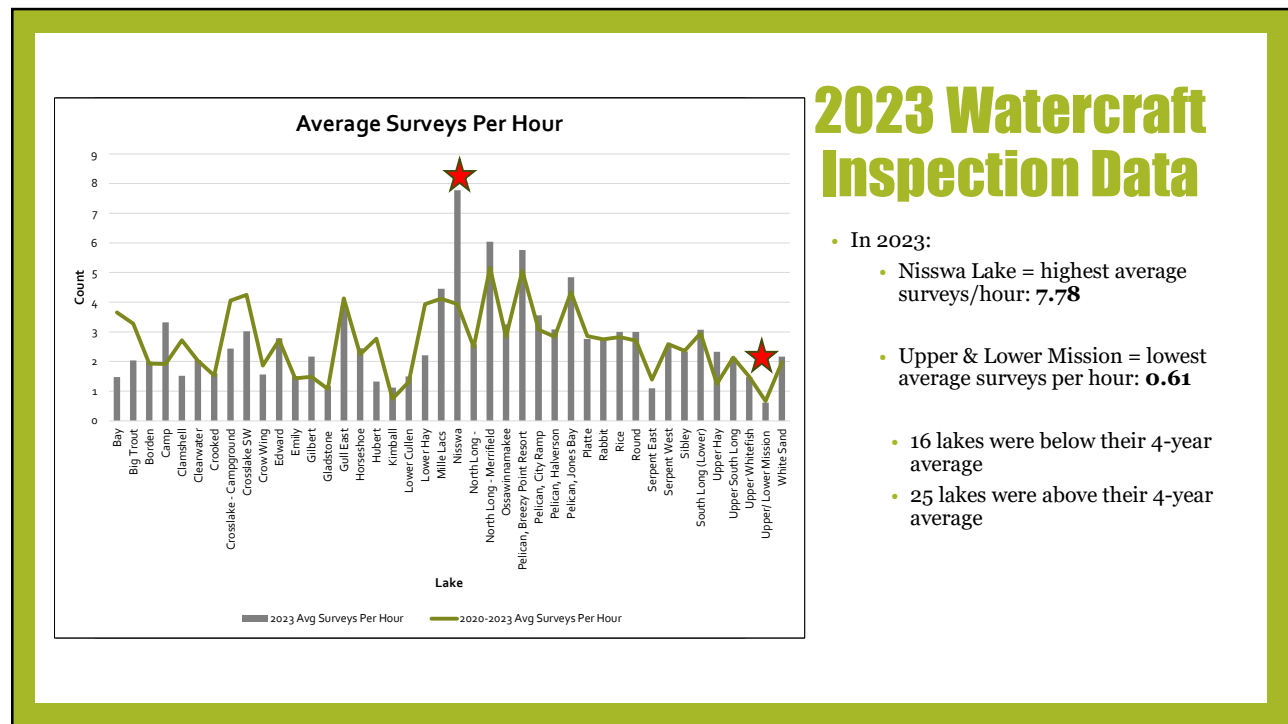
25



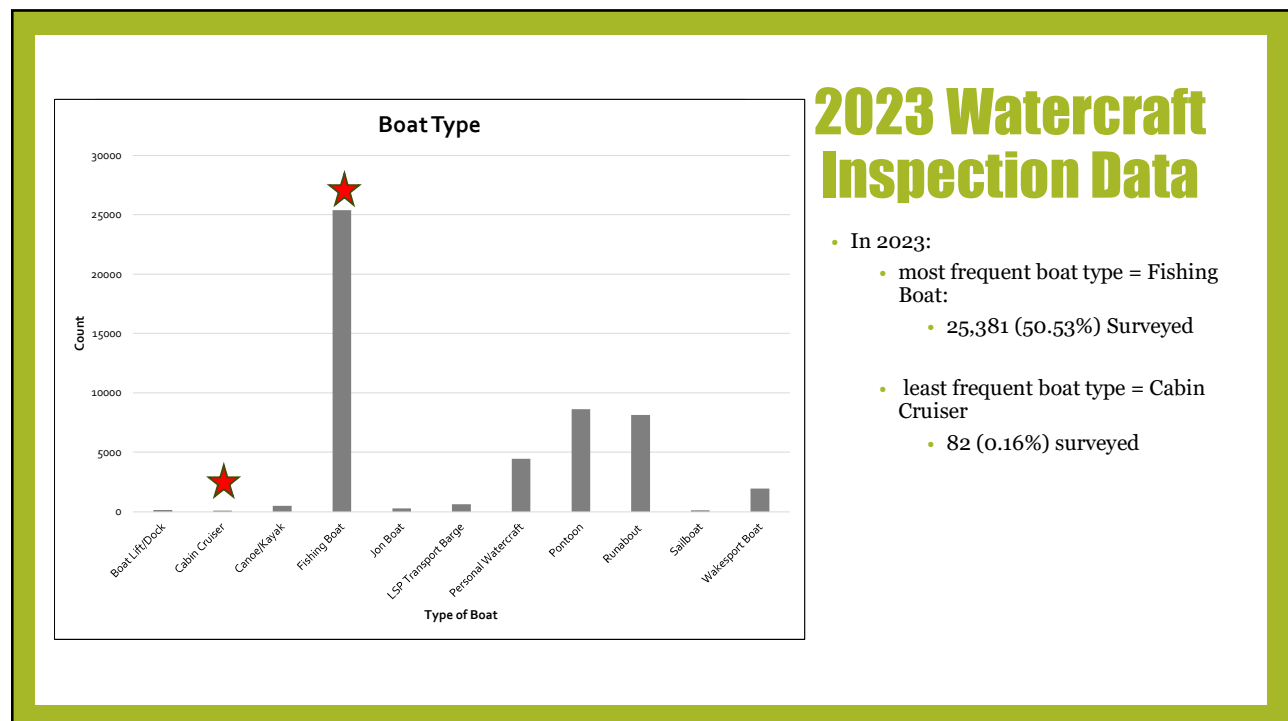
2023 Watercraft Inspection Data

- In 2023, Crow Wing County Performed:
 - An average of **2.66** surveys/hour across all lakes.
 - 17 lakes were above average
 - 25 lakes were below average
- From 2020 to 2023, Crow Wing County Performed
 - An average of **2.64** surveys/hour
 - 22 lakes were above average
 - 20 lakes were below average
- 2023 was an ABOVE average year!

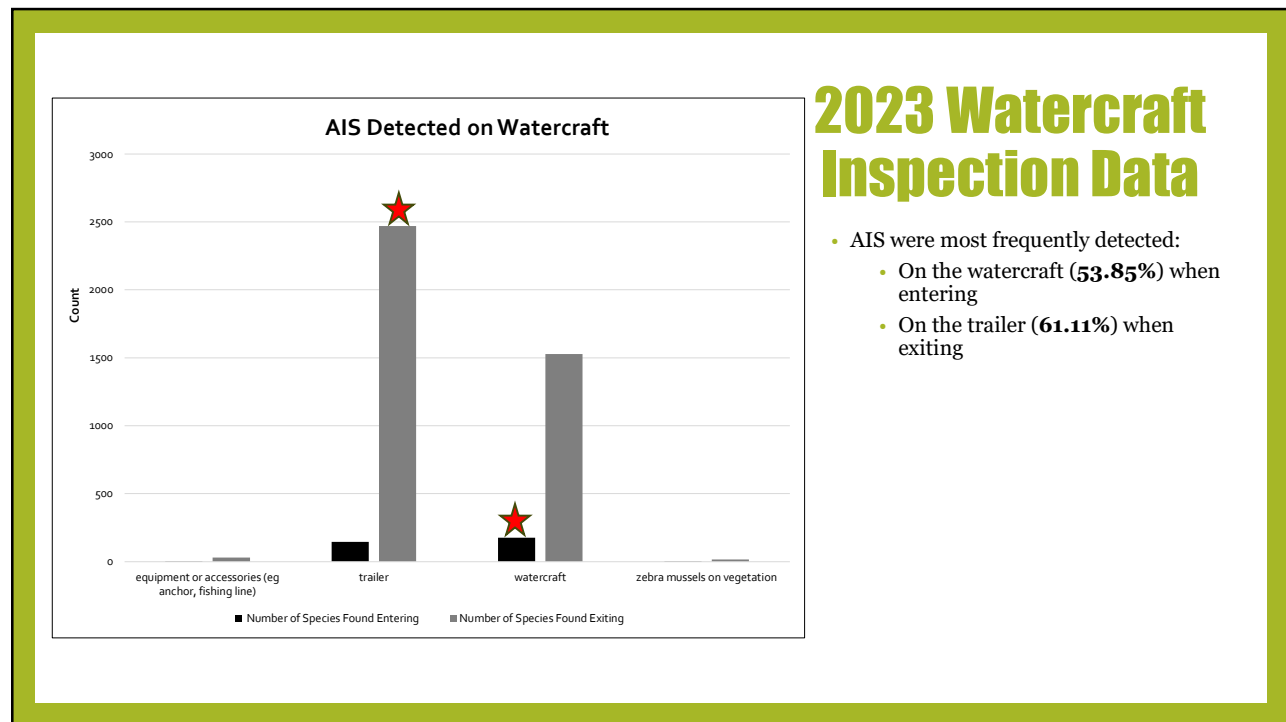
26



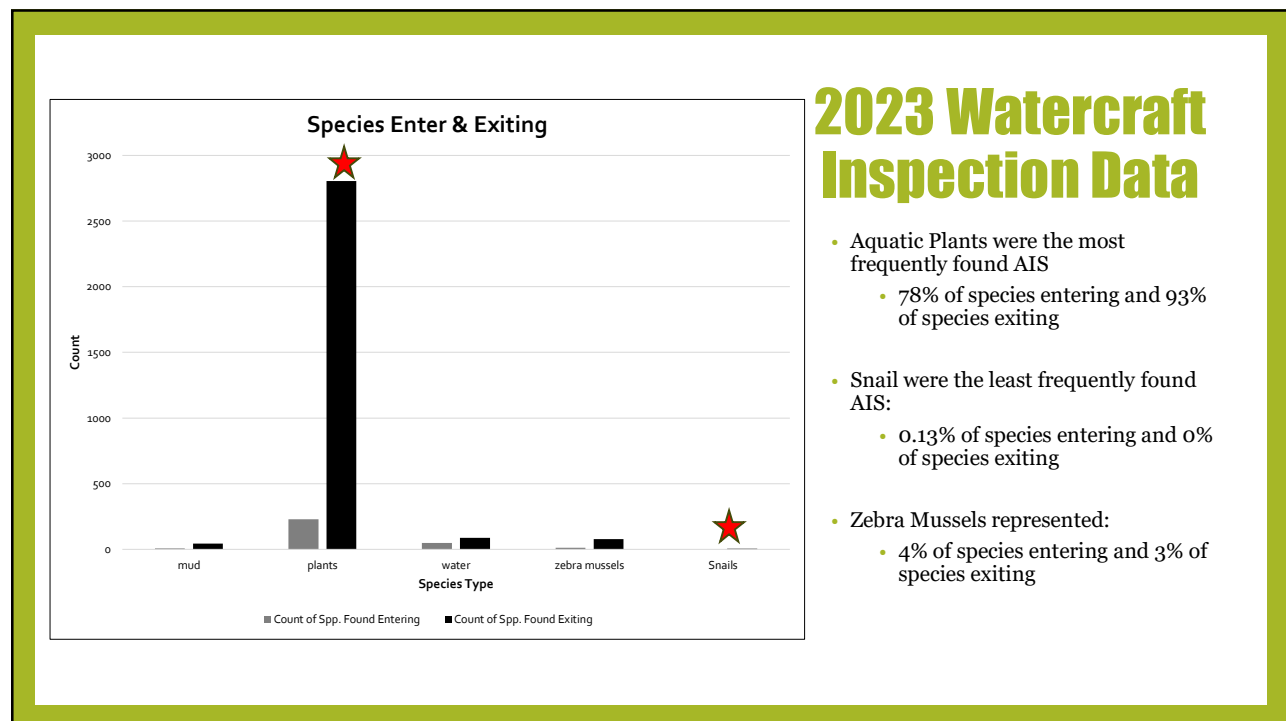
27



28



29



30

2024 CWC AIS Prevention Plan – Next Steps

December - 30-day public comment period on proposed CWC AIS 2024 plan.

January - County Board acts on the 2024 AIS plan.

February – Begin hiring process for 2024 seasonal watercraft inspectors.

33

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Jessamyn Foley

(218) 232-8955

Regional Watercraft Inspection Program Supervisor
Ecological and Water Resources

34

QUESTIONS?

Jessica Shea
Operations Manager
218-824-1123
Jessica.Shea@crowwing.gov

Erik Hidalgo
Environmental Services Coordinator
218-824-1142
Erik.Hidalgo@crowwing.gov

Alex Gorman
Environmental Services Coordinator
218-824-1008
Alex.Gorman@crowwing.gov