



2017 Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Report

Background

The North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District was granted St. Louis County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention funds to operate a watercraft inspection and decontamination program in 2017. Watercraft inspections on Burntside Lake were conducted 5/12 – 9/24 and on Lake Vermilion 5/12 – 10/21. Due to proximity of District AIS staff, inspections on Fall Lake in Lake County were conducted 5/12 – 8/19. The District had a contract with Lake SWCD to provide inspections there. Two Landa ECOS 7000 portable and self-contained decontamination units were stationed in the Ely area. One unit was stationed 5/26 – 9/24 at van Vac Landing on Burntside Lake. A second unit was stationed at the Ely Chamber of Commerce 5/26 – 7/30 prior to its relocation to the Sandy Point Landing on Shagawa Lake 8/4 – 9/24. Two decontamination units stationed in the Vermilion area were staffed 5/12 – 9/24. One unit was stationed at the Y-Store in Tower and the second unit was stationed at the Country Store in Cook.

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

20,720 watercraft were inspected at 17 public accesses and 12 private accesses on Lake Vermilion, Burntside Lake, Shagawa Lake, and Fall Lake in 2017:

- Total Watercraft Inspector Hours: 13,293
 - Level 1 Inspector Hours: 8,384
 - Level 2 Inspector Hours: 3,143
 - Lead Inspector Hours: 1,766
- Total Watercraft Inspections: 20,720
 - Entering Inspections: 11,027
 - Exiting Inspections: 9,676
 - Courtesy Inspections: 17
- Inspections Per Hour: 2.5
- Entering from In-State: 18,380 (89%)
- Entering from Out-of-State: 2,340 (11%)
- Drain Plug in on Arrival: 345 (3%)
- Vegetation/Water/Mud on Arrival: 48 (0.4%)
- Require 1-way Transport for Prohibited Species: 7
- Number of decontaminations: 594 (3%)
 - Y Store, Tower: 162
 - Country Store, Cook: 55
 - van Vac Landing, Burntside Lake: 274
 - Sandy Point, Shagawa Lake: 79
 - Ely Chamber of Commerce: 24

2017 Inspection and Decontamination Program							
	Burntside Lake	Lake Vermilion	Shagawa Lake	Fall Lake	Ely Chamber	2017 Actual	2017 Goal
Public Accesses	2,145	14,419	337	712		17,613	15,600
Private Accesses		3,107				3,107	1,800
Total Watercraft Inspections	2,145	17,526	337	712		20,720	17,400
Total Watercraft Decontaminations	274	217	79		24	594	625

Table 1. Total number of inspections and decontaminations by location in 2017, compared to 2017 goals.



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Inspected Watercraft By Type

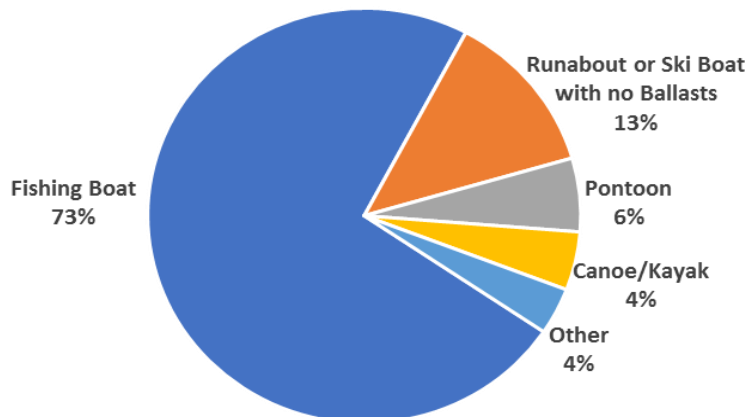


Figure 1. Percentage of inspected watercraft by type in 2017. 73% were fishing boats, 13% runabouts or ski-boats with no ballasts, 6% pontoons, 4% canoes/kayaks, and 4% other. Other: 2% personal watercraft 1% jon boats, 0.6% wakeboard boats with ballasts, 0.3% sailboats, and 0.1% boat lifts/docks or similar.

Watercraft Coming from Known Infested Waters Excluding Spiny Water Fleas				
Species	Burntside Lake	Lake Vermilion	Shagawa Lake	Fall Lake
Eurasian Water Milfoil	47	449	9	6
Zebra Mussels	46	424	9	6
Faucet Snail	19	135	2	1
Flowering Rush	19	125	1	2
Big Head Carp	20	78	1	0
Silver Carp	20	78	1	0
Grass Carp	18	73	1	0
New Zealand Mud Snail	7	49	1	1
White Perch	7	49	1	1
Round Goby	7	49	1	1
Ruffe	7	49	1	1
VHS	7	49	1	1
Starry Stonewort	4	28	0	0
Total	228	1,635	29	20

Table 2. The watercraft inspection program found over 1,900 documented opportunities for the potential introduction of new invasive species into Burntside Lake, Lake Vermilion, Shagawa Lake, and Fall Lake. Because all four are known to have spiny water flea, that data was excluded. Burntside: Of the 1,210 entering inspections, nearly 19% (228) of watercraft posed a risk for spreading AIS. Vermilion: Of the 9,347 entering inspections, over 17% (1,635) of watercraft posed a risk for spreading AIS. Shagawa: Of the 185 inspections (beginning in August, nearly 16% (29) posed a risk for spreading AIS. Fall: Of the 285 entering inspections, over 7% (20) of watercraft posed a risk of spreading AIS. If spiny water flea were included, 93% of entering watercraft on Vermilion, 79% of entering watercraft on Burntside, 78% of entering watercraft on Shagawa, and 68% of entering watercraft on Fall Lake have recently come from infested waters.