

Duties for Watercraft Inspectors



Watercraft inspectors serve to inform and educate the public about the threats of ecologically harmful aquatic invasive species to Wisconsin lakes. Inspectors work at public boat landings performing boat and trailer checks, recording watercraft data, distributing educational materials, and reporting suspect specimens.

Tasks:

- Communicate effectively to educate the public on invasive species and issues
- Distribute written information to watercraft users
- Inspect watercraft and trailers for invasive species
- Conduct verbal surveys and inspection inventory
- Document, record, and submit any suspect invasive species specimens to local/regional DNR service station
- Submit watercraft inspection data online at: dnr.wi.gov/lakes/cbcw-data
- Check landing and boat landing kiosk for appropriate signage and invasive species warning posters
- Check landing for litter and presence of appropriate trash container

Background Knowledge:

- Inspectors should have a working knowledge of how invasives can effect lakes. They are encouraged to read the information provided in CBCW handbook and be familiar with the current aquatic invasives threatening Wisconsin's waters.
- Inspectors should know that many native aquatic plants look a lot like non-native invasive aquatic plants, so all plants should be removed from boats and equipment.
- The invisible immature form of zebra mussels, known as veligers, and viral hemorrhagic septicemia can be transported in bait buckets and bilge water. Inspectors must be able to explain to boaters why they should not dump their bait bucket in the lake and why they should expel their bilge water and live-well water before they enter a new lake.
- Inspectors should have a basic understanding of the VHS rules and AIS "illegal to launch law", so that they can explain these rules to boaters and anglers.

Remember, volunteer watercraft inspectors are not to enforce the law; rather, they educate boaters that launching any watercraft with plant or animal material attached is illegal. Inspectors encourage boaters to remove plant matter and drain water every time they leave a water body.