



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Outreach to Waterfowl Hunters 2014-15

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DNR AIS Education Grant

Purpose-

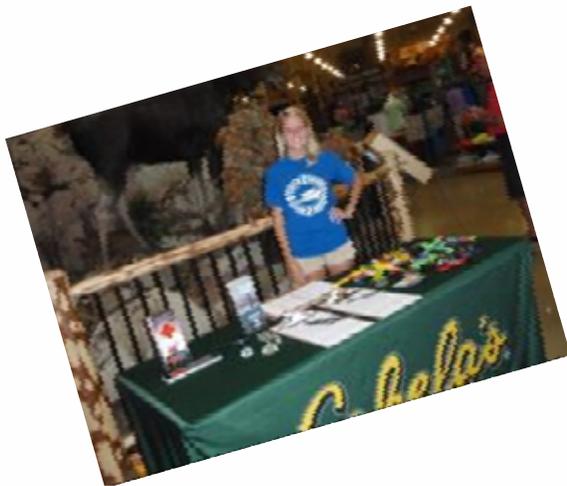
1. Improve AIS outreach to waterfowl hunters using Mead and McMillan state wildlife properties
2. Collect information to target outreach efforts
 - Are waterfowl hunters a vector for spread of AIS?
 - Is awareness and compliance of AIS laws among WI waterfowl hunters high or low?

Plan-

1. Develop and distribute 2-page waterfowl hunter AIS survey
2. Design 5 Signs for Mead and McMillan wildlife properties
3. Design Waterfowl hunter targeted AIS brochure
4. Develop Waterfowl Hunter AIS Outreach Toolkit for state/local properties

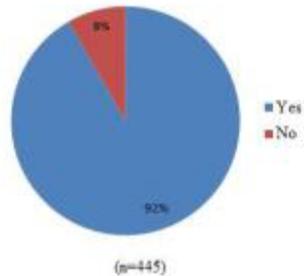
AIS Waterfowl Hunter Survey

- 2 page survey to assess knowledge, compliance and willingness to practice prevention steps
- 450 surveys distributed primarily in central and northeast Wisconsin by partners at waterfowl hunting events and during waterfowl hunting opener at Mead Wildlife Area (June-October 2014)
- Boot brushes supplied as a thank you to participants.

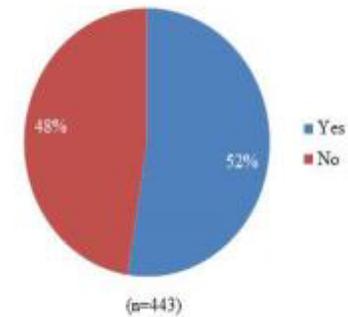


Survey Results

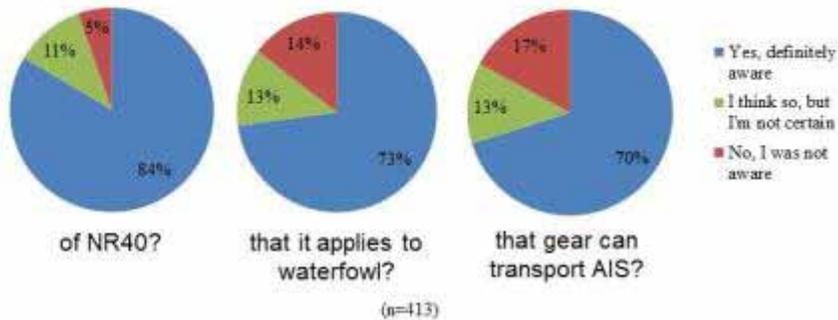
Are Hunters Aware of AIS?



Do Hunters Visit Multiple Waters Within Five Days?



Are Hunters Aware...



Survey Results cont.

Number of Locations Hunters Use

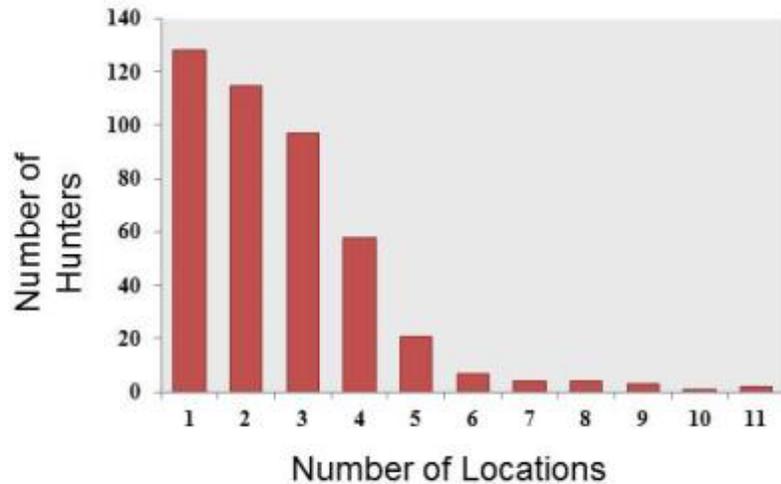


Fig. 4: The number of locations waterfowl hunters use during a hunting season. (n=453)

Number of Days Spent Hunting

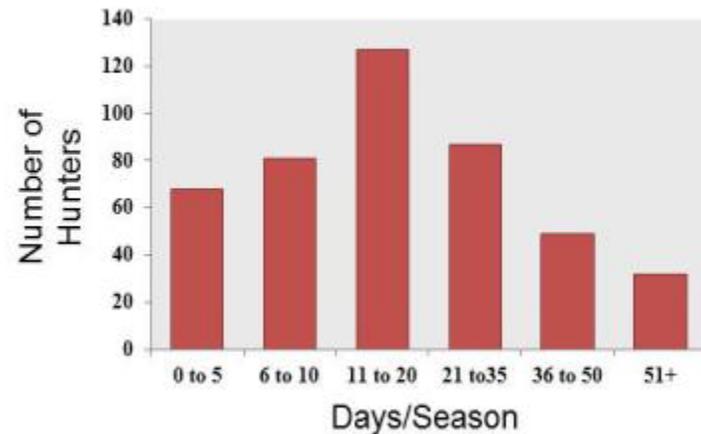
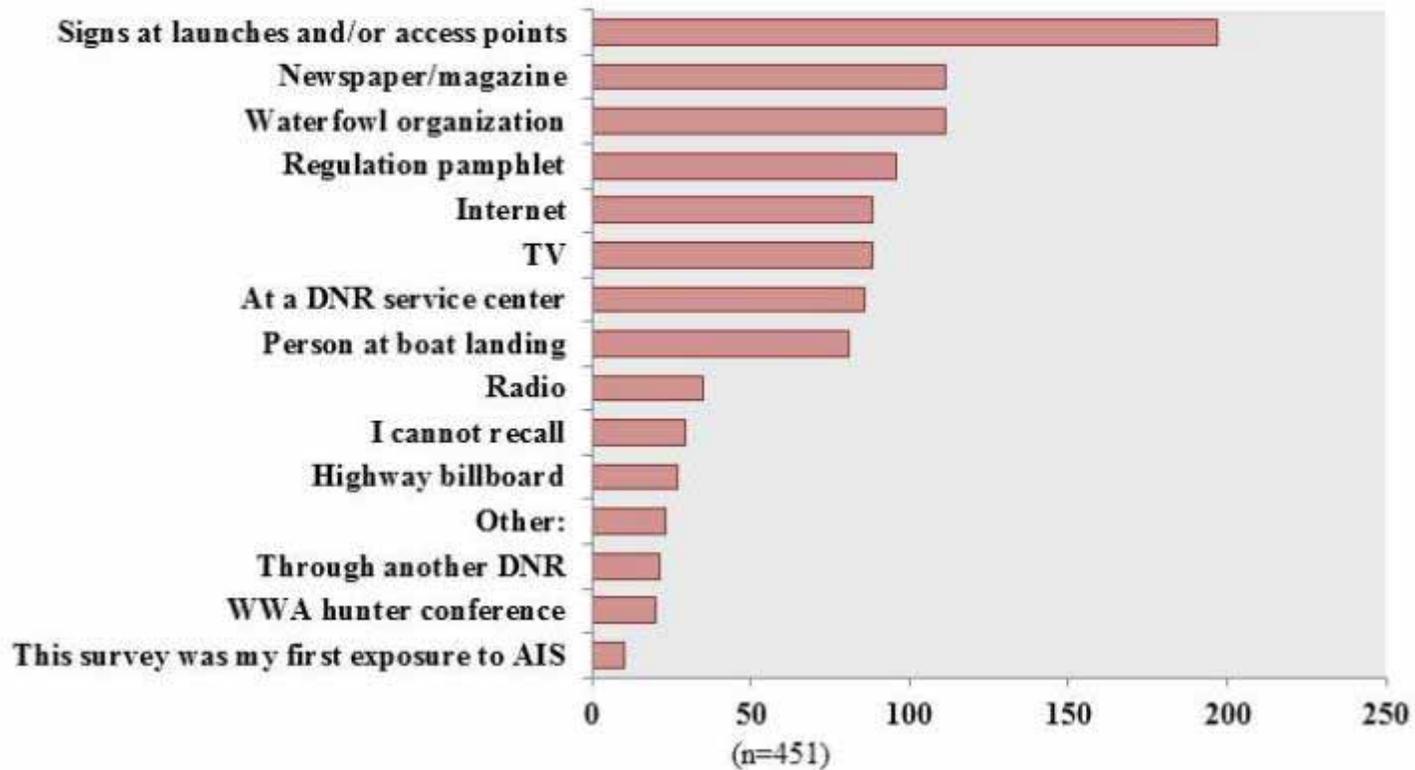


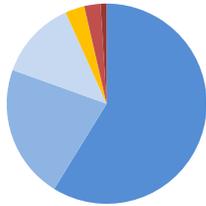
Fig. 2: The number of days survey respondents reporting hunting waterfowl. (n=444)

Survey Results cont.

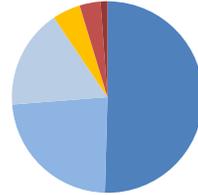
Where Hunters Get AIS Information



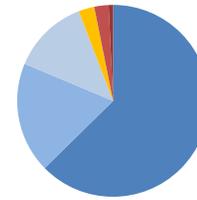
What are Wisconsin Hunters Willing to do to Prevent the Spread of AIS?



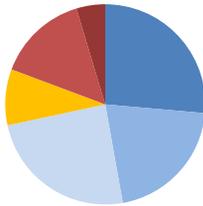
Inspect & Remove: Gear



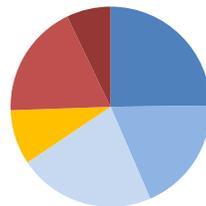
Inspect & Remove: Dog



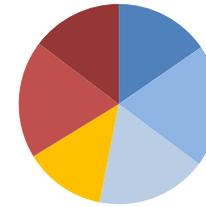
Drain: Gear



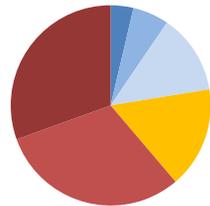
Brush: Gear



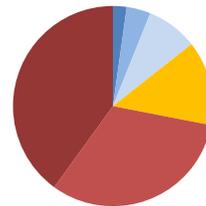
Rinse: Gear



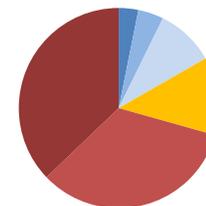
Dry: Gear



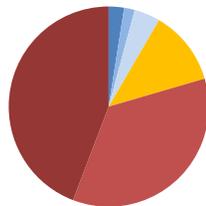
Soak: Hot Water



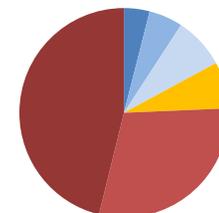
Freeze Gear



Soak Bleach



Soak: Virkon



Switch Gear



Conclusions and Recommendations

- 92% of hunters surveyed have heard of AIS, but 70% report knowing that it can be transported on waterfowl hunting gear
- Waterfowl Hunters are a potential vector for spread of AIS
 - 70% hunters reporting hunting multiple locations in a season and 50% hunting multiple locations within 5 days
- Many hunters report willingness to brush and rinse gear to remove AIS- consider placing movable cleaning stations at access points to encourage cleaning (brushes, rinse water)
- Tailored AIS outreach to waterfowl hunters
 - signage at access points (DNR templates)
 - waterfowl hunting regulations pubs/web site
 - local news articles/magazine ads
 - presentations at local waterfowl hunter organization meetings
 - newsletter articles



Signs and Brochures

Protect the Places You Hunt

Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species

Follow these simple steps:

INSPECT boots, shirts, dogs, boots, trailers, cars, vehicles, paddles and push-poles before leaving your hunting location.	REMOVE mud, seeds, plants and animals from dogs and all hunting gear.	DRAIN all water from boots, boots and other hunting equipment.
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WHERE TO LOOK:

- BOATS: / / /
- WADERS: / / /
- EQUIPMENT: / / /
- BOOTS: / / /
- VEHICLES: / / /

Why should hunters take action?

INVASIVE SPECIES CAN:

- Damage Habitat:** Invasive plants and animals can damage the habitat and reduce the number of birds and animals that can live there.
- Impact Wildlife Populations:** Invasive plants and animals can compete with native plants and animals for food and space.
- Limit Hunting Opportunities:** Invasive plants and animals can make it difficult to find and hunt birds and animals.

STOP AQUATIC INTRUDERS!

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STOP AQUATIC INTRUDERS!



Protect Our Waterfowl Habitat

A Hunter's Guide to Stopping Aquatic Invasive Species

STOP AQUATIC INTRUDERS!

A Hunter's Guide to Stopping Aquatic Invasive Species

This guide provides hunters with information on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) while hunting. It covers topics such as inspecting gear, removing mud and plants, and draining equipment. The guide also includes a checklist of items to look for and a list of resources for more information.





What We Learned at Mead



- 84% of hunters surveyed have heard of AIS, but only 65% report knowing that it can be transported on waterfowl hunting gear
- Waterfowl Hunters are a potential vector for spread of AIS
 - 62% hunt more than 3 locations each season.
 - 55% hunt multiple locations within 5 days

Observations:

- Increased awareness of gear as a means of transporting AIS
 - Requests for boot brushes
 - Rinsing gear in the river
- Pride in interpretive displays.
 - Keeping them clean and free of debris
- Increased awareness of invasives on the landscape
 - Contacting the office with potential AIS observations
- The interpretive aspect draws other property users (hikers, trappers, canoers) to read the information as well.





Where Mead Will Go From Here:

- Consider placing movable cleaning stations at access points to encourage cleaning (brushes, rinse water)
- Encourage local Conservation Wardens to provide brochures to those in need.
- Provide information about AIS at our visitor center year round, and as a focal point to waterfowl hunters in September.
- Provide information about AIS to hunters on the waterfowl opener via bag check volunteers.
- Continue to monitor our efforts and encourage other State Wildlife Areas to participate.





Thanks!

Wisconsin Chapters of Ducks Unlimited

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association (WWA)

Diane Schauer, Calumet Co.

Patrick Miller, Kaci Baillies

Kaycie Stushek, Golden Sands RC&D

Tim Campbell, UW Extension/Wis DNR

Jon Motquin, Golder Associates

Bradley Steckart, Washington Co.

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