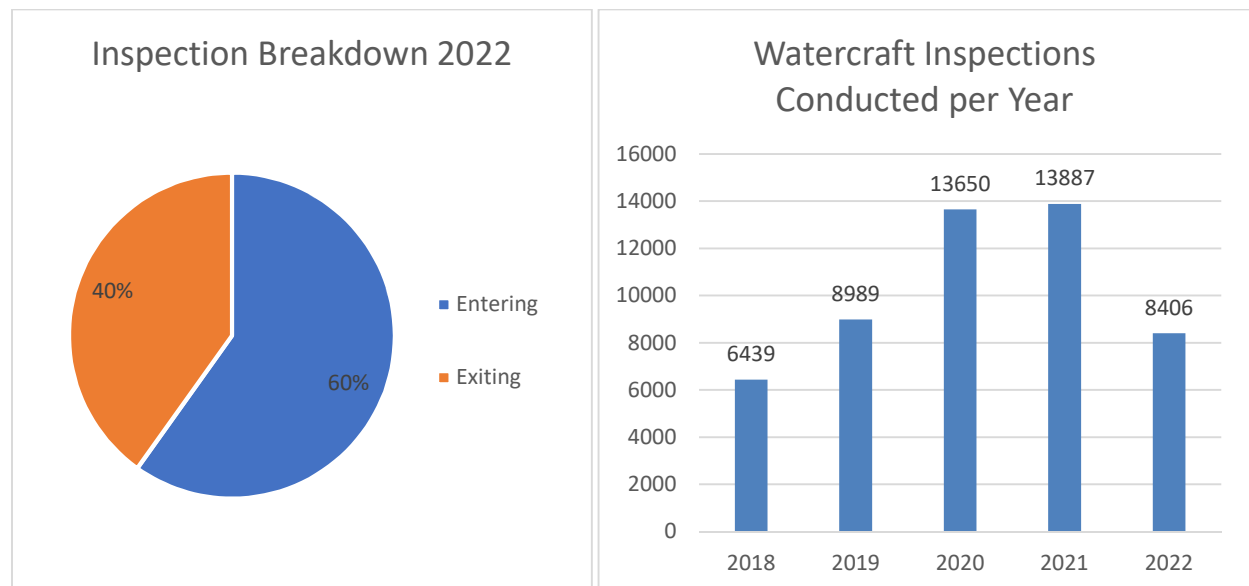


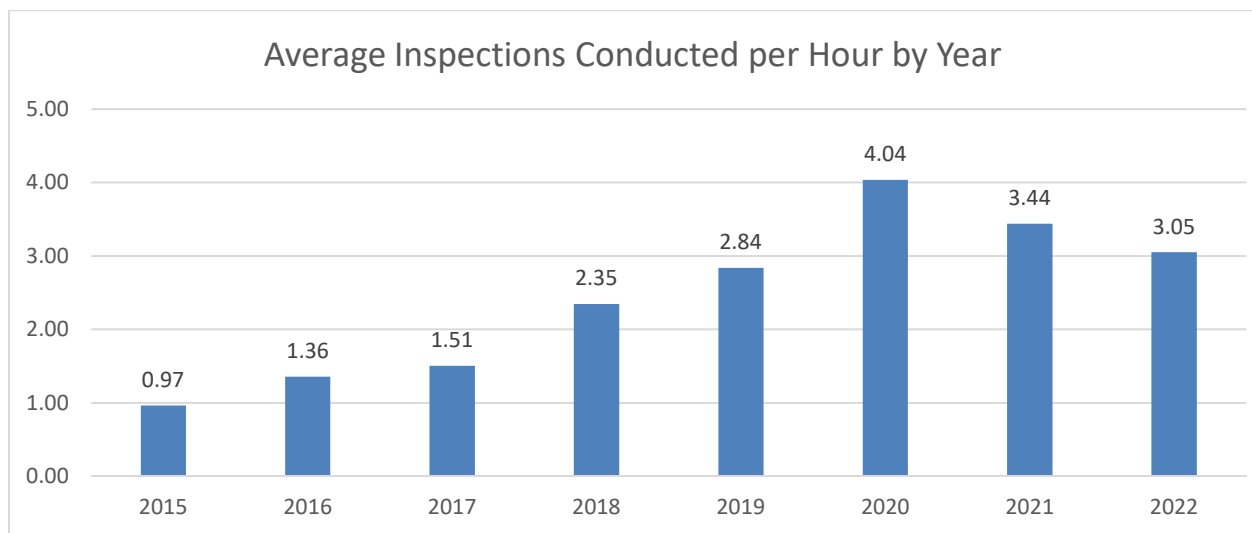
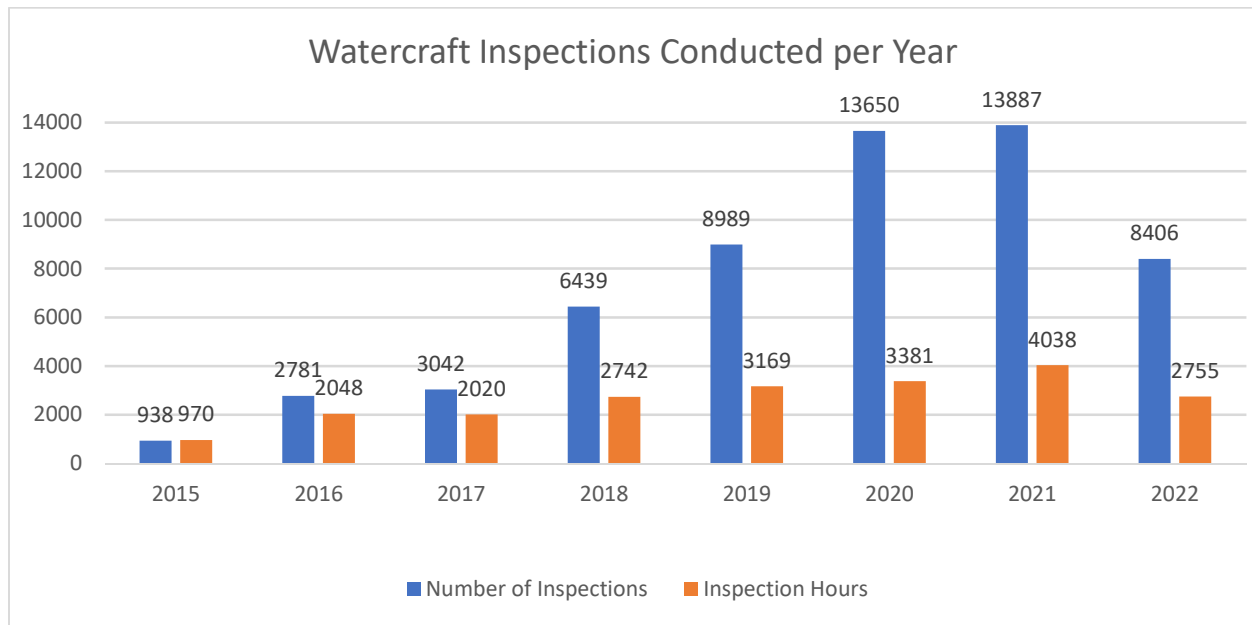


Washington County AIS Inspection Summary Points 2022

The WCD supervised 8 DNR authorized Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors for the 2022 season. Funding was received from Washington County, Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD), Big Marine Lake Association (BMLA), Square Lake Association (SLA), the City of Scandia, Ramsey County Soil and Water Division (RCSWCD), Bald Eagle Lake Association (BELA), Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD), Lake DeMontreville Olson Association (LDOA), and Clear Lake Association (CLA). These inspectors were present at 18 water access locations starting May 15th through October 29th. During the inspection season, 2,755 hours of inspections occurred resulting in 8,406 inspections. Compared to 2021, 1,283 fewer hours of inspections occurred, and 5,481 fewer inspections were performed. The decrease in hours and inspections was due to a number of factors, including staffing difficulties and drought conditions affecting water levels at some boat landings. Drought conditions, as well as decreased restrictions on indoor activities for the COVID-19 pandemic, may have also had an impact on the overall number of boaters and lake users for the 2022 season.



The number of inspections performed in 2022 was lower than the number completed in 2021. Compared to 2021, there was a 1% increase in the number of entering inspections conducted versus exiting inspections. As with previous years, emphasis has been placed on entering inspections to prevent new infestations. However, exiting inspections are equally important at already infested lakes to prevent infestations from spreading.



While the number of inspections and inspection hours decreased in 2022, the average amount of inspections conducted per inspection hour remained relatively high due to years of observing boater use patterns, with an emphasis placed on staffing at lakes during daily high use times. A large number of inspections conducted on the weekends at Bald Eagle consistently throughout the season is also a contributor to this average. Inspection numbers from 2020 and 2021 are likely outliers due to pandemic conditions. When compared to pre-pandemic seasons and 2022, the number of inspections conducted in 2020 and 2021 are far above average. When compared with 2018, which had a similar number of inspection hours, inspection efficiency in 2022 was higher, with 1,967 more inspections conducted and only thirteen more inspection hours for an average of 3.05 inspections conducted per hour in 2022 versus an average of 2.35 inspections conducted per hour in 2018. Funding was available to conduct additional inspections in 2022, however understaffing prevented planned coverage for the season.

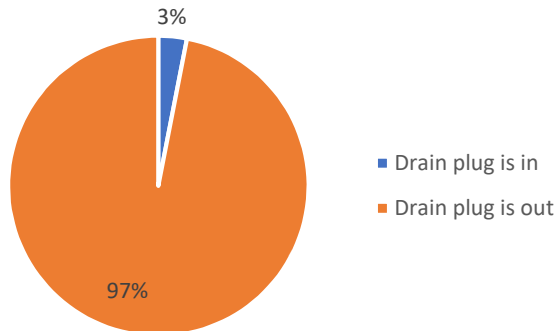


WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

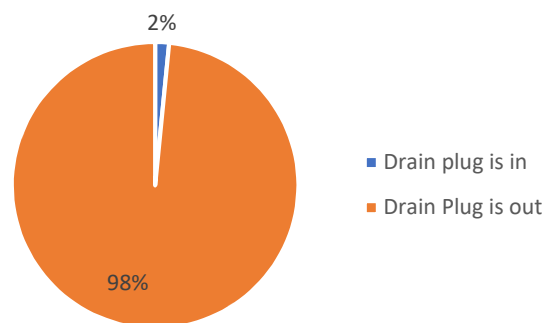
455 HAYWARD AVE N
OAKDALE, MN 55128

651-330-8220 [PHONE]
651-330-7747 [FAX]
WWW.MNWCD.ORG

Drain Plug Violations 2021
(Incoming Inspections)

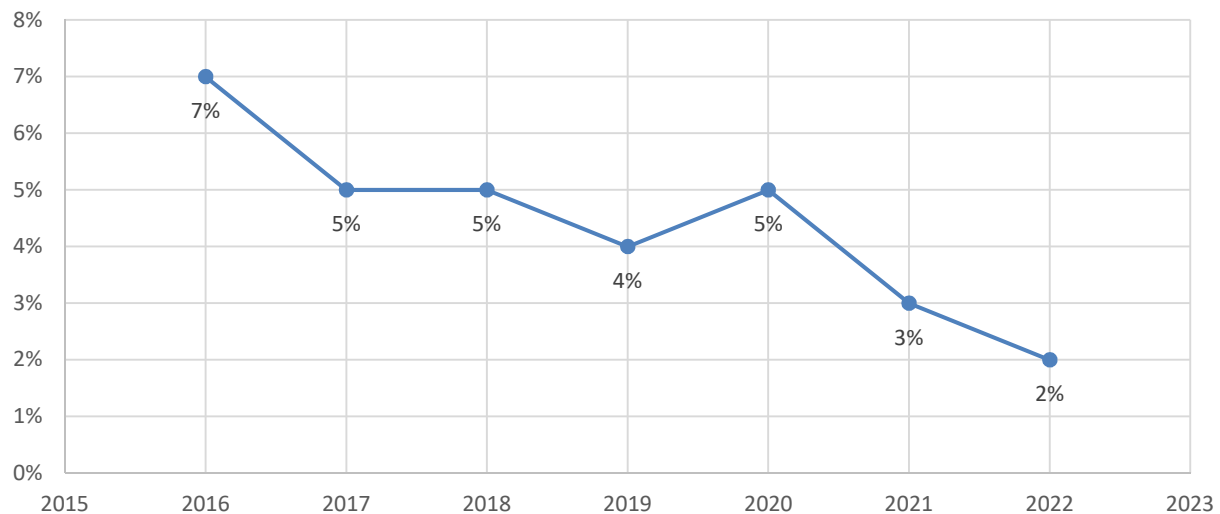


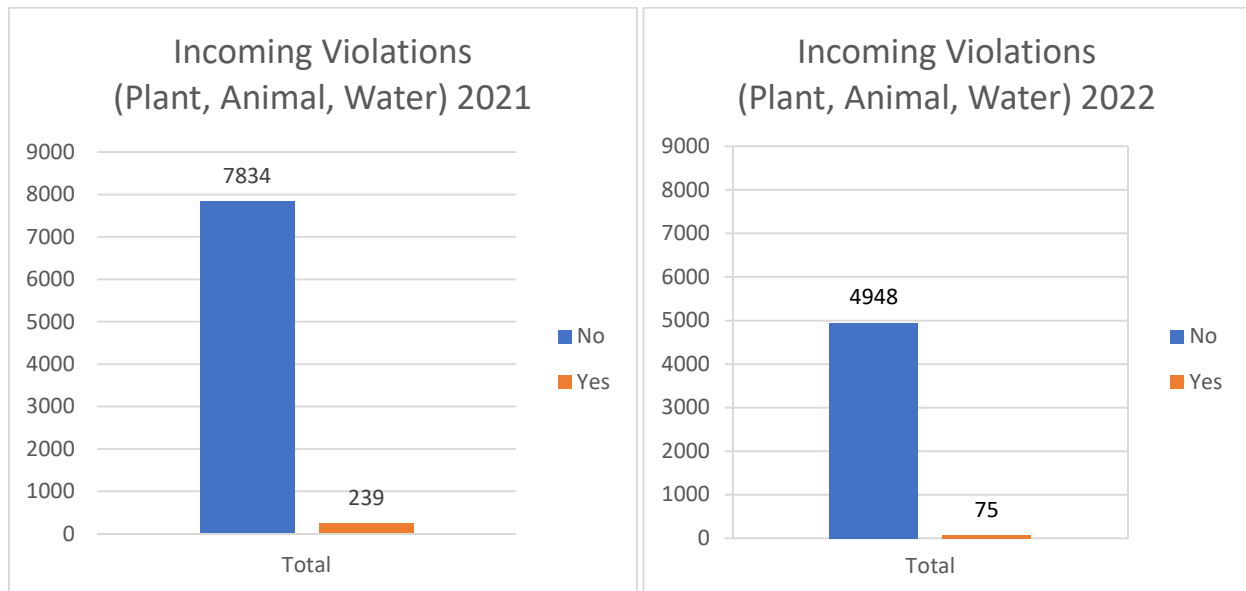
Drain Plug Violations 2022
(Incoming Inspections)



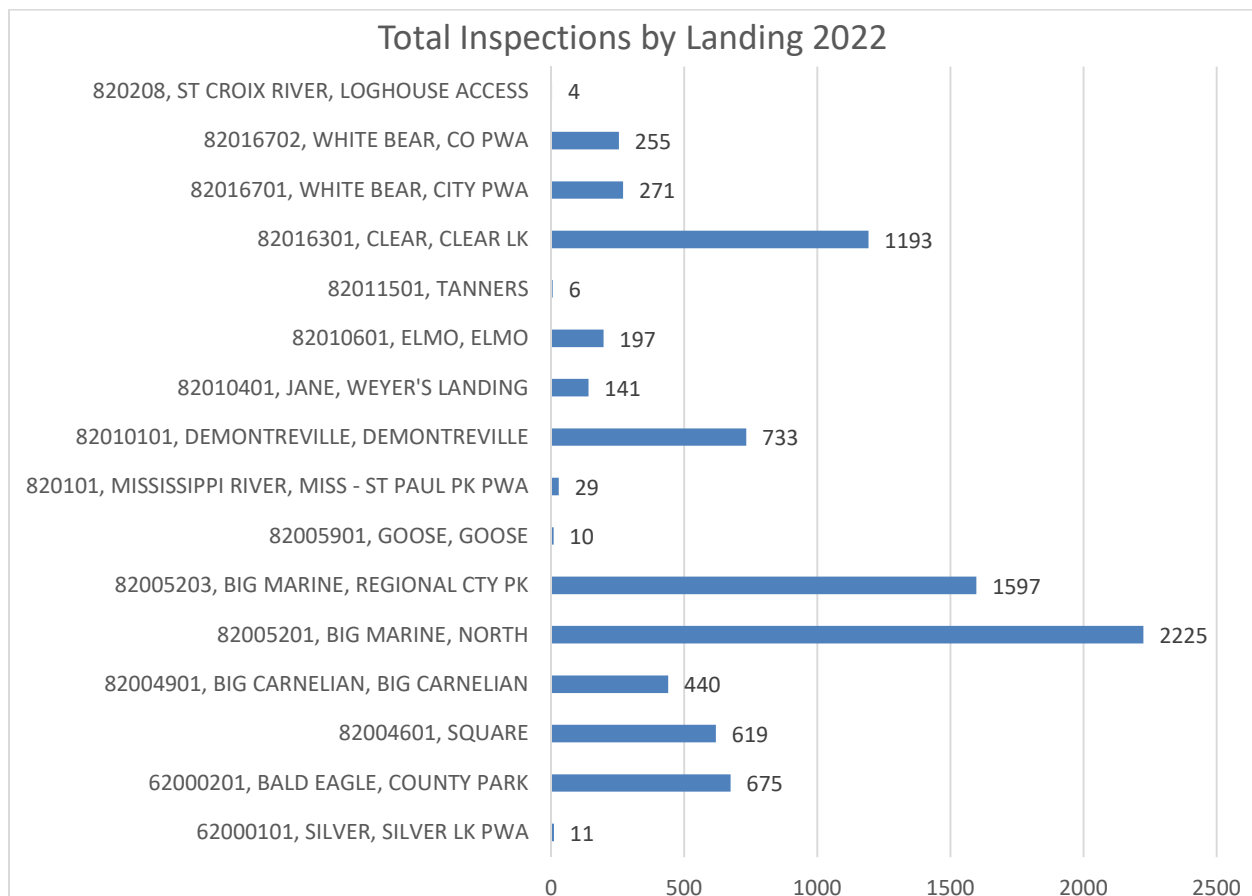
There was a decrease in drain plug violations in 2021 from 3% to 2%. Of the 77 instances where the plug was found to be in when the boater arrived in 2022, only 2% resulted in the boater being sent away to drain their watercraft due to the discovery of water in the hull. In these instances, a boater is sent away from the ramp and may return when the water has been drained. Over the years there has been a reduced number of drain plug violations found by WCD inspectors. The continued goal of the Watercraft Inspection Program is to educate boaters on AIS laws and decrease violations like these.

Incoming Drain Plug Violation Percentage by Year





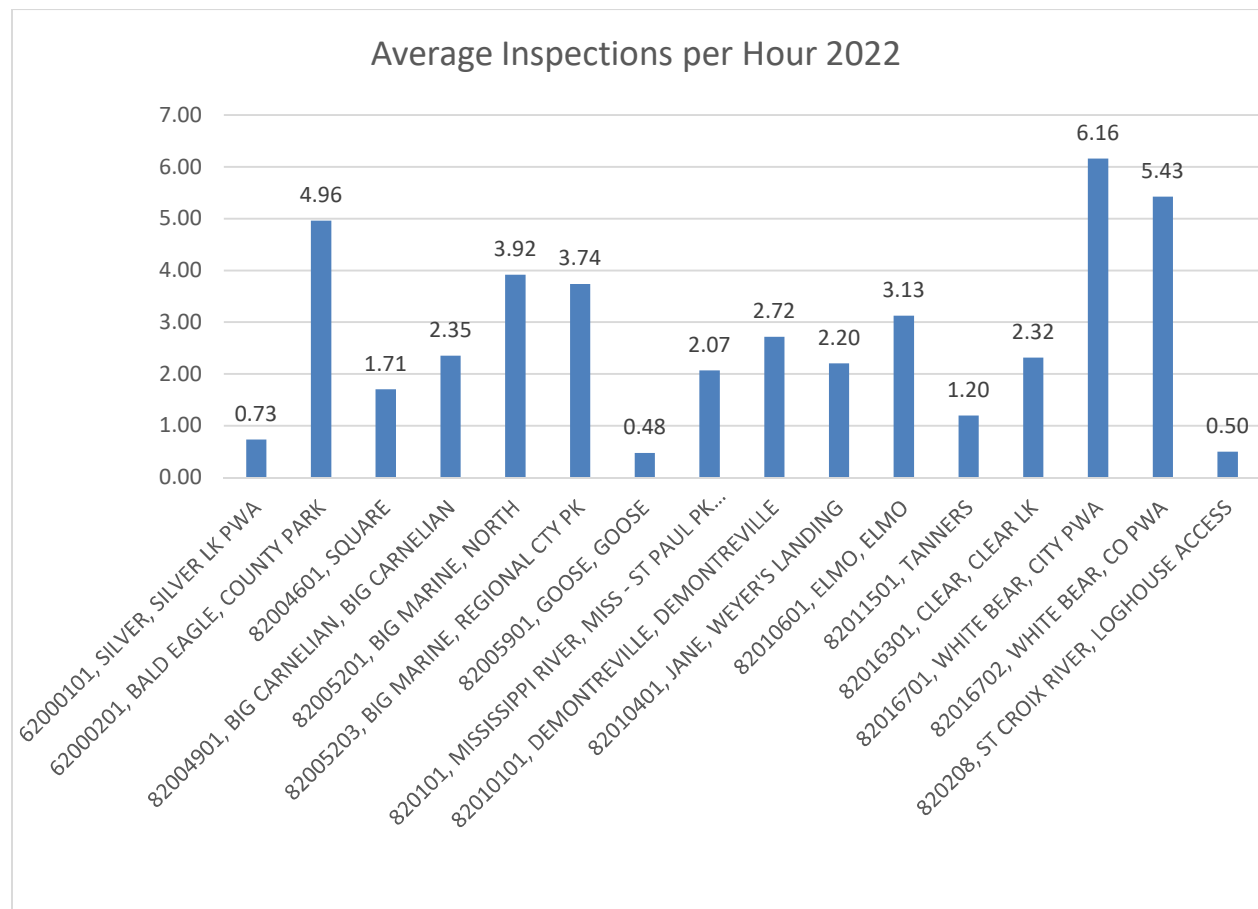
Of the 4,948 incoming inspections performed in 2022, 75 violations were observed. This is a slight decrease percentage-wise from the previous years' inspections. As in previous years, by far the most common violation was the presence of aquatic plants, either attached to the trailer or the watercraft. Aquatic plants were found in 71 of the 75 inspections with violations. No zebra mussel violations were observed by WCD watercraft inspectors in 2022. When zebra mussels are found, boaters are denied launch and directed to decontamination sites. Additionally, all zebra mussel violations are forwarded to the DNR for enforcement.

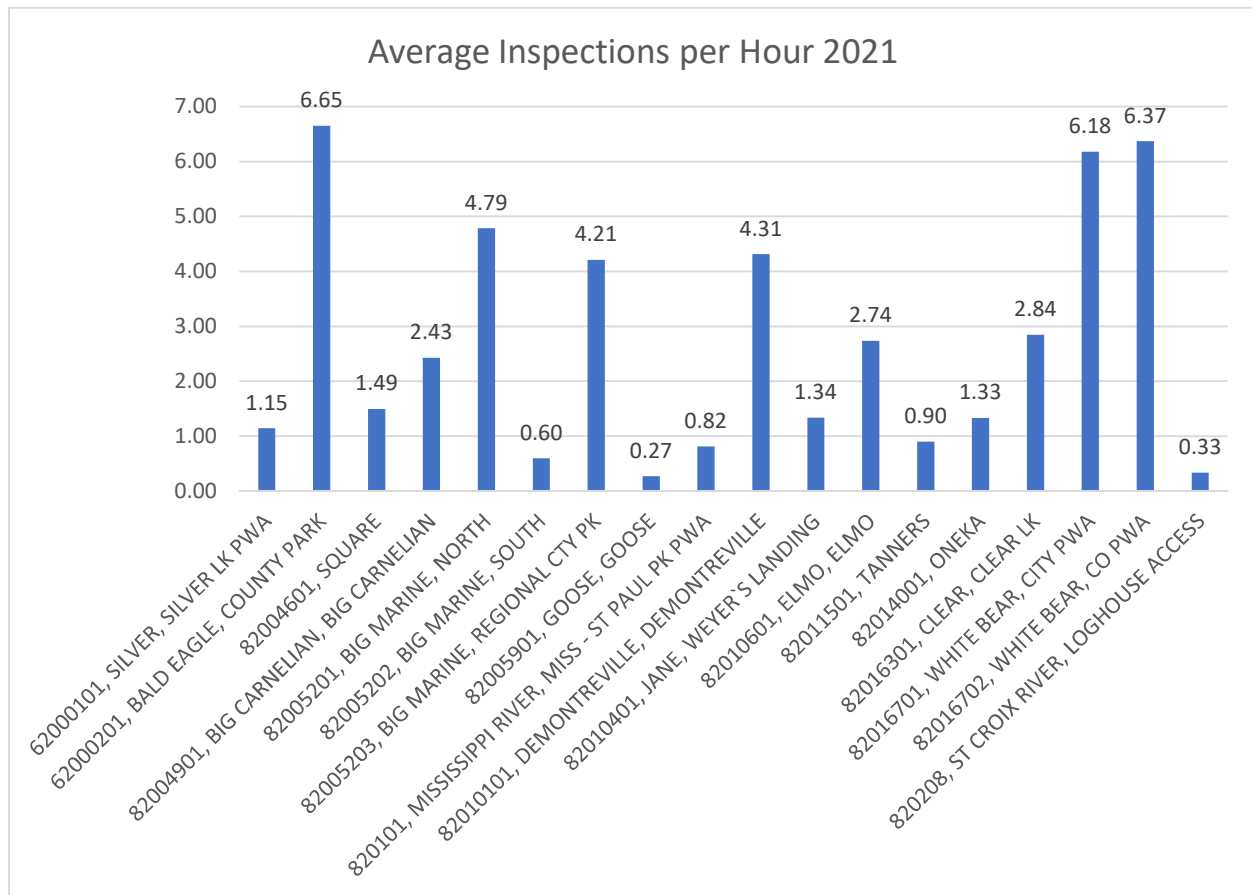




As in 2021, staff were present at 18 boat landings throughout the season. The highest number of inspection hours were conducted at Big Marine. Clear lake received additional inspection hours this year thanks to additional funding from CLA and was the lake with the second-most inspection hours. Historic boater patterns played a part in the distribution of hours, as well as water levels due to drought conditions. Big Marine was the most inspected lake, consistent with previous years. Clear Lake was the second-most inspected lake, followed by Demontreville and Bald Eagle. Most lakes saw a decrease in inspections conducted in 2022 when compared to 2021 due to the reduction in inspection hours. Staff were present at both Big Marine's south launch and Oneka's public access, but no inspections were conducted due to lack of use while inspectors were present.

Average inspections conducted per hour in 2022 when compared to 2021 are overall very similar, though some lakes saw changes in efficiency. Of most interesting note is Bald Eagle, which averaged 6.65 inspections per hour in 2021, and saw an average of 4.96 inspections per hour in 2022. In both years inspectors were present Saturday and Sunday from approximately 5am to 10am. The change in average could suggest a change in boater use patterns at Bald Eagle specifically, or a decrease in boating in the 2022 season in general.





Please note: although this summary addresses trends and data for Washington County lakes it references only those that are serviced by the Washington Conservation District. All the lakes located in CLFLWD have inspections performed by CLFLWD or Chisago County staff. Also note that the MNDNR performs inspections on many of the high use landings in Washington County, as well as being primarily responsible for the access points on the Saint Croix River. Lakes in Ramsey County are also staffed by inspectors from Ramsey County.