Clean Boats, Clean Waters

Citizens and Staff Working Together to Protect Wisconsin Lakes

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Invasive Mussel Collaborative Webinar, Oct. 2017

Wisconsin Lakes Partnership

WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Science

WISCONSIN LAKES

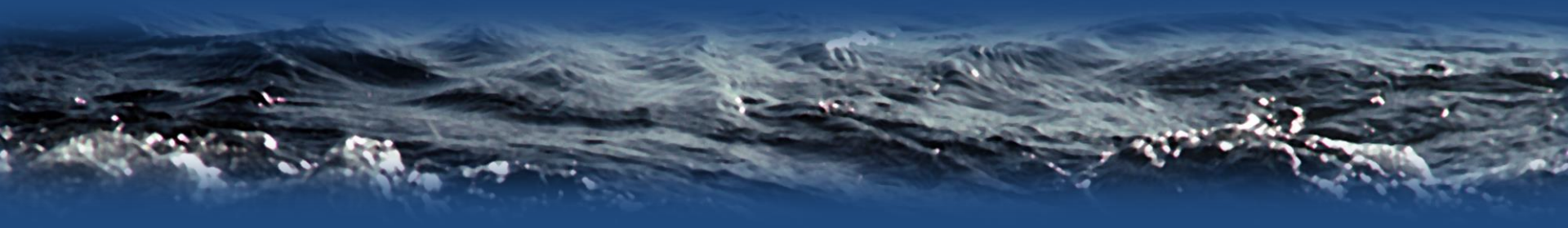
Citizens

UW Extension
University of Wisconsin-Extension

Education

Wisconsin – A Gathering of Waters

- 11,190 square miles of water
- 15,081 lakes
- 43,000 miles of rivers and streams
- 5.3 million acres of wetlands
- 6.4 million acres of Great Lakes



Estimated over 1 million boats on waters each year!

WI's Aquatic Invasive Species

- Currently track over 30 different AIS
- Most common:
  - ✓ rusty crayfish
  - ✓ Eurasian watermilfoil
  - ✓ curly-leaf pondweed
  - ✓ purple loosestrife

- Priority to prevent and contain spread of AIS

How it all began…

Origins of CBCW

- 2002 – Frustrated students
- Launched community education campaign

- Developed training for others
- State adopted in 2004

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

- Watercraft Inspection Program
- Trains volunteers and staff to organize and conduct boater education campaigns in their community
- 3,000+ people trained since 2004

Lake Organizations

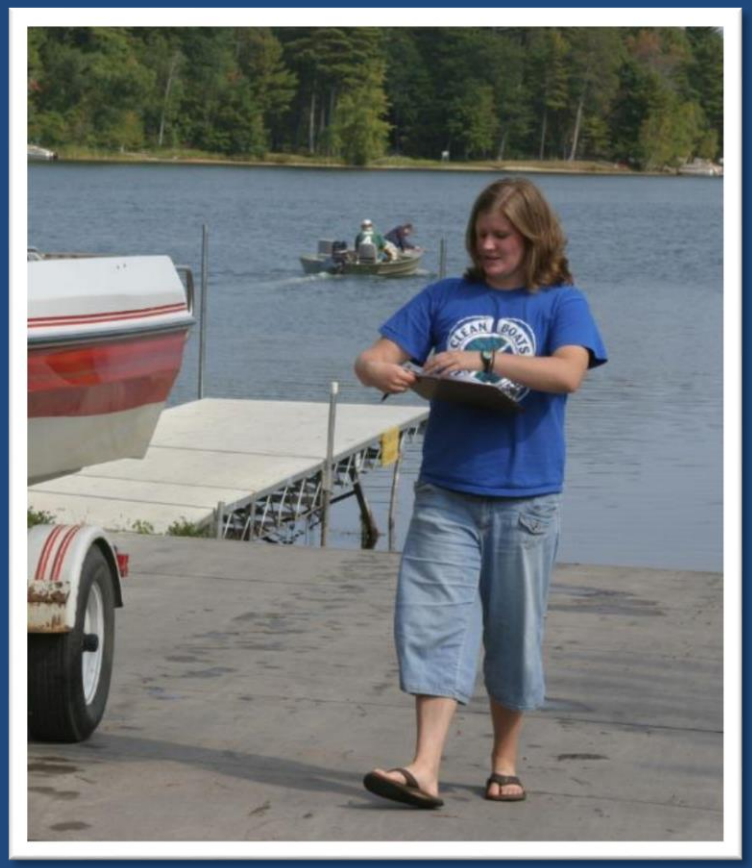
CRESTLINER
with boaters
to protect
our waters
DNR Staff

HAD IT.
FOUGHT IT.
SURVIVED IT.
635 DT
Student Interns

Community Groups
LUND
YAMAHA
30

Clean Boats = Clean Waters

- Main Goals:
  - ✓ **Educate** boaters on AIS and how they're spread
  - ✓ **Engage** boaters in watercraft inspection
  - ✓ **Collect & report data** on efforts



Our Key Message

- **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment
- **REMOVE** any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after leaving, and before transporting on a public highway).
- **DRAIN** all water from boats, motors, and equipment.
- **NEVER MOVE** live fish away from a waterbody.
- **BUY** minnows from a licensed WI bait dealer and use leftover minnows only under certain conditions.

CBCW Inspection Data

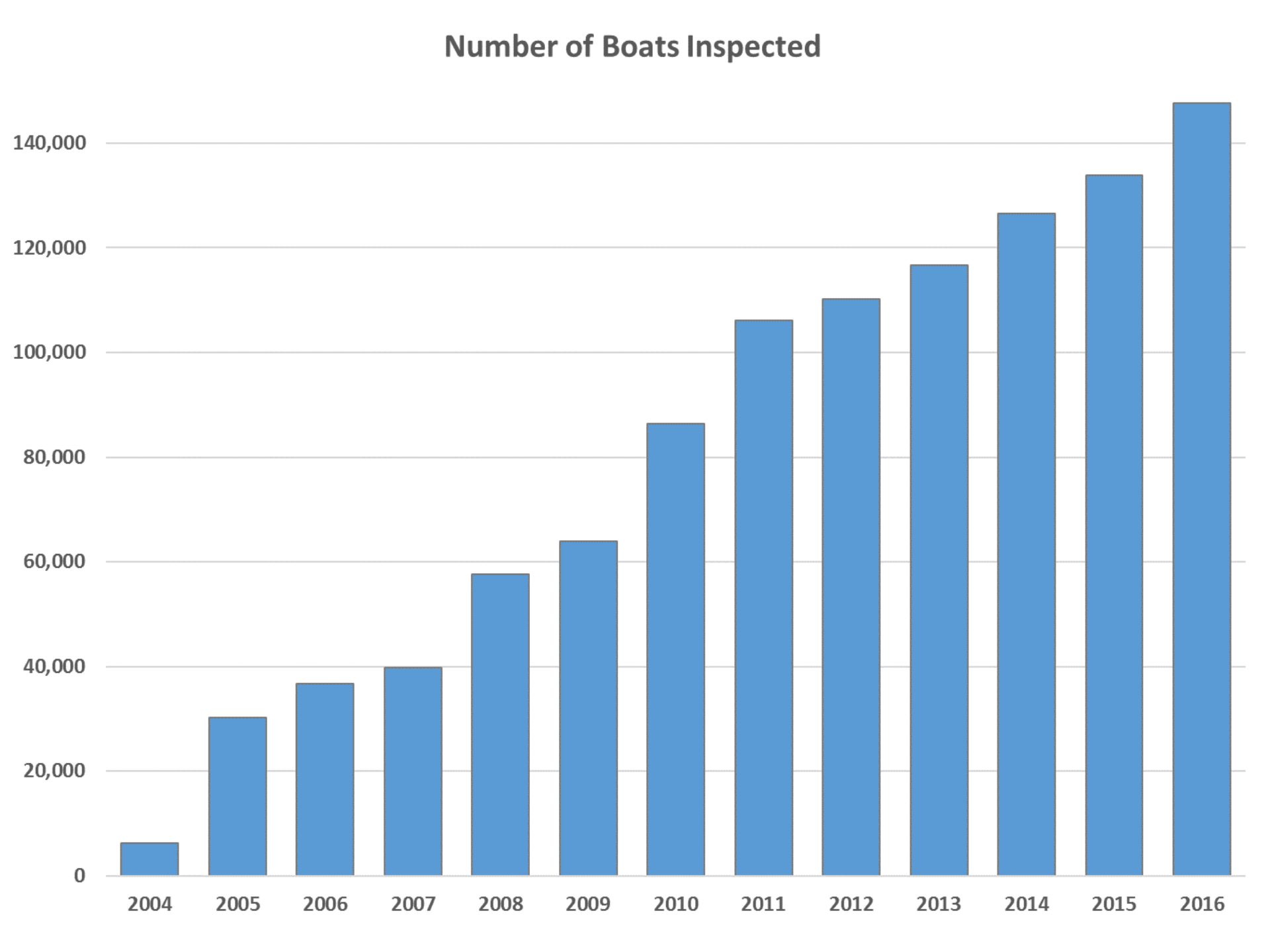
- Tracks number of contacts & boats inspected
- Reveals boater traveling patterns
- Efforts clear to everyone!

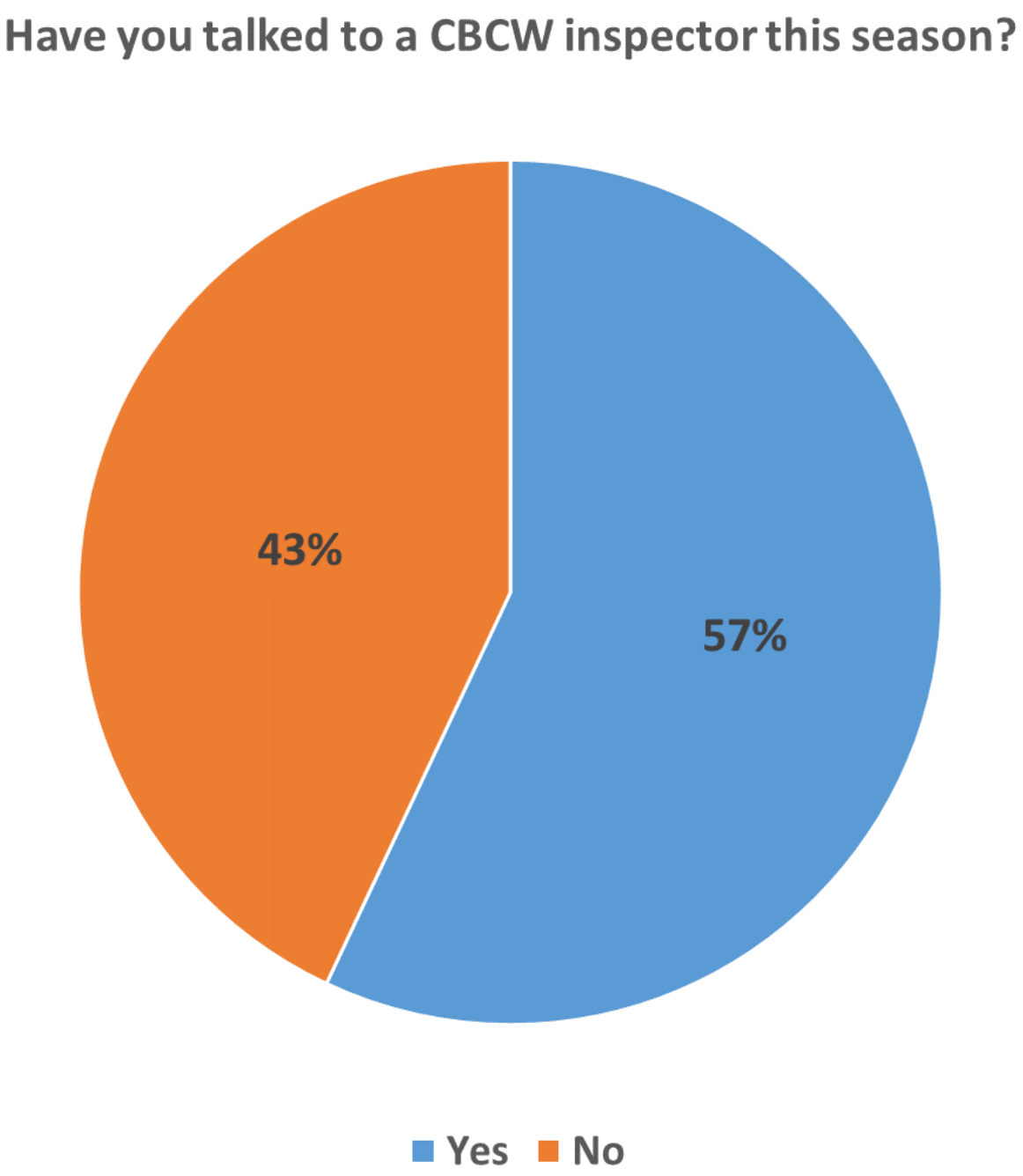
In 2016:

147,606 boats inspected

308,346 people contacted

84,830 hours spent inspecting


Number of Boats Inspected
140,000
120,000
100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016


Have you talked to a CBCW inspector this season?
43%
57%
Yes
No

What makes CBCW work?

- ✓ Support from AIS Partnership
  - Local county, tribal, regional, non-profit, & UW-based partners
  - Building & maintaining relationships
- ✓ Passionate, committed citizens!
- ✓ Grant funding – for citizens & staff
- ✓ Long-term commitment of Lakes Partnership

Some of our challenges…

- ✓ Tracking data
  - Citizens & SWIMS data entry
  - Trainings, participants, etc.
- ✓ Turnover & loss of staff
- ✓ Retaining volunteers

Decontamination in WI

<u>Decontamination units</u>

- DNR owns 3 portable hot water, high pressure units (special events)
- Forest Service owns couple
- Very few landings have boat wash facilities

<u>Lots of local interest</u>

- Complicated with liability & staffing issues

Decontamination in WI

DNR Decontamination Protocol

- Applies to DNR staff, contractors, & agents of the state
- Online video training

http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/disinfection.html

Thank You! Any questions?

AIS pumpkin carvings & photos by the multi-talented Paul Skawinski