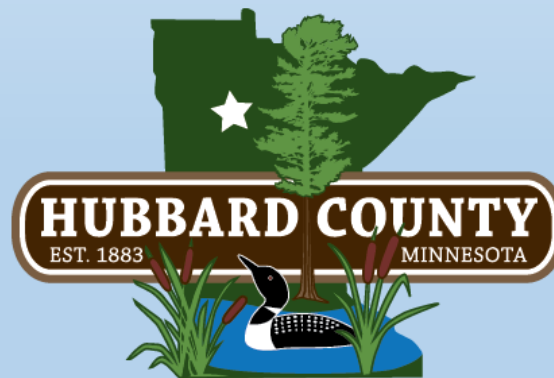


2023 Hubbard County Watercraft Inspection Program

Aaron Anderson
Environmental Services



Overview

- Watercraft Inspection Program Outlook
- Outreach Goals and Efforts
- State AIS Updates
- Decontamination Station Update

Watercraft Inspection Program Outlook

- **Staffing:**

- Goal: Have 45 inspectors on staff by fishing opener
- Current: 42 inspectors on staff
- Conducted Level 1 training on April 21st
- Follow-up secondary Level 1 training scheduled for May 6th

Watercraft Inspection Program Outlook

- **Funding:**

- Lake Associations & Organizations

- 20 donors

- \$132,644

- Townships & Cities

- 15 donors

- \$51,945



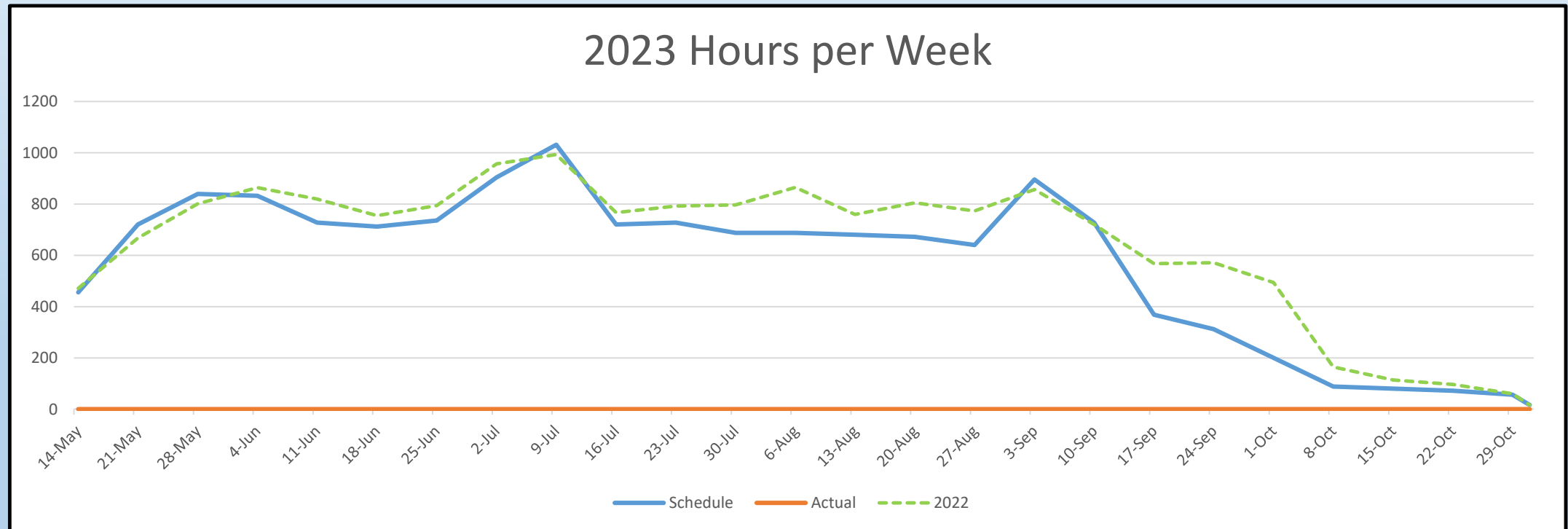
Watercraft Inspection Program Outlook

- **Inspection Schedule Basics**

- **14,600** total inspection hours
 - 7,215 state-funded hours
 - 7,385 supplemental-funded hours
- Inspection season runs from May 13th through October 31st
- 34 accesses covered / 32 lakes (no change from 2022)
- Inspection hours focused heavily on weekends and holidays

Watercraft Inspection Program Outlook

- How are we addressing the reduction of total hours?
 - Targeted shifts – daily and seasonally



2023 Outreach Objectives

- Aqua Weed Stick pilot project
- Starry Trek
- Resorts
- Radio & Newspaper
- Billboard



2023 Outreach Objectives

- **Aqua Weed Sticks – *HC COLA partnership***
 - Expanding on a pilot initiated by HC COLA
 - Will be placing weed-removal tools at nearly every access in the county
 - Provide a means in which boaters can take a pro-active role in AIS prevention
 - Newspaper article will introduce the tools and increase public awareness
 - Hopefully over time, this will encourage watercraft users to invest in their own AIS tools

2023 Outreach Objectives

- **Starry Trek**

- Hoping to expand on our 2022 success
 - 28 accesses sampled
 - No new AIS found
- Will be focusing on lakes experiencing higher traffic from boats coming from designated SSW infested lakes (>10% incoming watercraft)



2023 Outreach Objectives

- **Resorts – *HC COLA partnership***
 - Actively promote the AIS program to local resorts – create a partnership
 - Many resorts have experienced ownership changes over time
 - Create and re-establish contacts
 - Focus on Starry Stonewort
 - Hoping to prevent a situation such as the one which occurred on Leech Lake
 - SSW was identified and found to be well-established at a private resort/boat launch

2023 Outreach Objectives

- **Radio and Newspaper**

- Radio ads promoting the decontamination unit
 - Decontaminations were down significantly from 2021 to 2022
 - Decontamination numbers were down statewide....?
- Newspaper articles highlighting seasonally relevant AIS topics
 - Spring – Education / Summer – Water / Fall – Weeds
 - Respond to AIS issues as they arise

2023 Outreach Objectives

- **Billboard** – *HC COLA partnership*



Excellent new location, on the intersection of County 4 and Hwy 34

State AIS Updates - Recap

- Notable 2022 additions to the Infested Waters List:
 - Bemidji, Beltrami County (SSW)
 - Bowen, Cass County (SSW)
 - Stocking, Wadena County (faucet snail)
 - Thunder, Cass County (zebra mussel, SSW)
 - Turtle River Lake, Beltrami County (SSW)
- No new confirmed infestations in Hubbard County



Decontamination Station

- Hubbard County **FREE** Decontamination Station – Open for fishing opener
 - Located between Detail Shop and Transfer Station – follow signage
 - By appointment 7 days a week:
 - **218-252-6738**
 - **10:00 AM – 6:00 PM**



Questions?

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