

A worker wearing a yellow safety vest and an orange hard hat is bent over, working on a boat trailer. The trailer is blue and has a black tire visible. The worker is holding a tool, possibly a wrench or a screwdriver, and is focused on their task. The background is slightly blurred, showing other parts of the trailer and the ground.

# Tracking progress on recreational boating pathway prevention

Ceci Weibert, Great Lakes Commission



**Blue Accounting**

# Blue Accounting

- Brief background, work to date
- Blue Accounting AIS Work Group membership and role
- Recreational boating as a strategy for AIS prevention
  - Note: just focusing on boating, not angling or other recreational activities



# Recreational Boating

- Progress towards effective regional management of the recreational activities pathway includes both the implementation of education and outreach programs encouraging voluntary behavior change, and the adoption of comprehensive and regionally harmonized watercraft inspection and decontamination programs and policies.



# Process for Development

General data/information request sent to BAAWG members

Regulatory analysis by TNC of state and provincial watercraft inspection and decontamination legislative provisions

Follow-up interviews with BAAWG members and relevant watercraft program staff

Development and population of program components

Final review, edits, and approval of jurisdictional information by BAAWG members



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	
1		Agency Capacity								Partnerships					
2	Jurisdiction	Dedicated	Pathway-s	Pathway-s	Pathway-s	Specific Al	FUNDING	CLOSURE	PENALTIES	Coordinat	Coordinat	Leadershi	Dedicated	LOCAL GOI	
4	Indiana	No; dedica	No; staff t	Yes; state	No; law en	No; specia	No; the In	Yes; while	Yes; AIS r	No; inspec	Yes; Clean	Yes; the C	Yes; the C	No; Indiar	
5	Michigan	Yes; MI EG	Yes; multi	Yes; multi	Yes; LED o	Yes; office	No; there	Yes; deper	Yes; these	Yes; CISM	Yes; CISM	Yes; for th	Yes; Michi	Yes; when	
6	Minnesota	Yes; the M	Yes; MN D	Yes; MN D	Yes; the D	Yes; WREC	Yes; The M	Yes; DNR i	Yes; Minn	Yes; authc	Yes; includ	Yes; the in	Yes; count	Yes; DNR	
7	New York	No; NYSD	No; NYSD	No; NYSD	No; Envir	Yes; traini	Yes; The N	No; NYSD	Yes; fines	Yes; NYS D	Yes; stand	Yes; outre	Yes; NYS D	No; in som	
8	Ohio	Yes; some	No; staff t	No; staff t	No; there	Yes; brief	No; nothir	No; ODNR	No; ODNR	No; inspec	Yes; the O	Yes; educa	No; a dedi	No; ODNR	
9	Ontario	Yes; OMN	Yes; OMN	Yes; OMN	No; not di	Yes; office	No; a fund	Yes; this Ir	Yes; pena	Yes; while	Yes; the O	Yes; partn	No; There	No; Ontar	
11	Quebec	Yes; in 20	No; those	No; those	No; those	No; but th	No; a dedi	Yes; 25 (1)	Yes; civil p	Yes; local	Yes; outre	No; exterr	Yes; Queb	Yes; Muni	
12	Wisconsin	Yes; there	Yes; the W	Yes; the W	No; while	No; Wisco	No; a fund	No; additi	Yes; Wisco	Yes; local	Yes; local	Yes; as pa	Yes; Wisco	Yes; local	

	A	B	C
1	<b>Program Category</b>	<b>Program Component</b>	<b>Jurisdictional Status</b>
2	Agency Capacity	Dedicated/pathway-specific funding	Yes; OMNRF has dedicated funding to support outreach initiatives associated with recreational boating
3		Pathway-specific dedicated time for program staff	Yes; OMNRF staff are dedicated to policy development associated with the pathway. There are no rules requiring inspection/decontamination for recreational boating specifically in the province – so therefore no staff are dedicated to this specific action
4		Pathway-specific dedicated time for outreach staff	Yes; OMNRF staff are dedicated to conducting outreach initiatives on this pathway
5		Pathway-specific dedicated time for law enforcement officers	No; not directly to rules associated with recreational boating and movement of AIS
6		Specific AIS training for law enforcement officers	Yes; officers are trained to enforce Ontario's AIS laws and regulations. Where there are rules that affect boating (e.g. transport of prohibited aquatic plants on boats) – this training also conducted
7		FUNDING A dedicated fund to support implementation and/or maintenance of a watercraft inspection/decontamination program is established through legal provisions	No; a fund is not in place at this time
8		CLOSURE OF WATERS State-/province-managed boating access points can be closed and boating activities restricted if necessary to respond to an aquatic invasive species threat in that body of water	Yes; this Invasive Species Act does allow for this, but this power has not been exercised to date
9		PENALTIES Penalties for violations of all relevant AIS prevention regulations are established	Yes; penalties are in place



# Prevention Program Categories

- **Agency Capacity [8 components]** (does the relevant management agency have sufficient capacity, including funding, personnel, and authority, to implement and manage recreational boating AIS prevention programs);
- **Partnerships [5 components]** (does the relevant management agency efficiently coordinate with external partners to implement and manage recreational boating AIS prevention programs);
- **Outreach [5 components]** (does the relevant management agency implement outreach campaigns designed to educate boaters and encourage responsible behaviors);
- **Reporting and Evaluation [4 components]** (does the relevant management agency regularly report on and evaluate their recreational boating AIS prevention program); and
- **Inspection and Decontamination [9 components]** (does the relevant management agency implement broadscale watercraft inspection and decontamination programs)



# Lessons Learned



One size does not fit all – NSGLC Model for Western states was generally agreed upon by BAAWG members to not be a reasonable standard to hold Great Lakes states to



Rather than creating a Great Lakes standard, our approach emphasized consistency between jurisdictions



Holistic point of view is key to capturing the full scope of prevention, and these programs can be strong even in the absence of extensive legislative provisions



# Case Studies and Example Approaches



**Blue Accounting**



# AIS as a law enforcement priority/specialized training for law enforcement

- **Wisconsin Water Guard program** (a now defunct program for seasonal wardens that specifically focused on AIS and boater education)
- **Michigan/Ontario** (AIS is a current priority, how did they get to that point/how have they capitalized on this?)



# Funding models for recreational boating programs

- **Minnesota** (a well-established program and funding model)
- **Québec** (established funding for partner activities)
- **Michigan** (Michigan Waterfront Alliance funding)
- **New York** (establishment and use of an [Environmental Protection Fund](#))



# Creative non-agency partnerships

- **Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant** (network of self-inspection stations at key boat ramps)
- **CD3** waterless cleaning station (approval from MN DNR, partnerships with LGU, >500,000 uses)
- **Wildlife Forever** outreach (and Spotters program)
- **Leveraging Clean Marina programs** for outreach and voluntary inspection/decontamination (**Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, possibly others**) – could there be an opportunity for regional collaboration through these programs, possibly modeled after Great Lakes AIS Landing Blitz efforts?



# Methods for program evaluation and adaptation

- **Michigan** (regulatory analysis occurs regularly to ensure that laws are clear in intent, easily followed, and satisfactorily protective)
- **Minnesota** (using watercraft inspection data to inform future risk and plan for upcoming season, as well as Sea Grant evaluation of reported boater behaviors)
- **New York** (using watercraft inspection data to inform future risk and plan for upcoming season)
- **Ontario** (online boater surveys occur on a rotating basis)
- **Wisconsin** (using watercraft inspection data to plan for upcoming season, as well as regular Sea Grant evaluation of reported boater behaviors and efficacy of decontamination procedures)

