

2010 Summary Report of Watercraft Inspection Results at Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes

Author: Anna Ness

Watercraft Inspection Program Assistant

Invasive Species Unit, Ecological and Water Resources, MN DNR

11/16/10

Introduction:

The watercraft inspection program's goal is to reduce the spread of invasive species into and around the state. To accomplish this we complete at least 10,000 hours of watercraft inspections each year, work with citizen groups and educate the public at events such as the state fair.

In January of 2008 the MN DNR Invasive Species Unit created a grant program to allow citizen groups to increase the number of hours of inspection at their water accesses. This was done as a way to increase watercraft inspections in the state, work with citizen groups and satisfy requests from citizen groups for more hours of inspections at their accesses.

The Douglas County Lakes Association received a prevention grant from the MN DNR in April of 2010 for 450 hours of inspection time during the watercraft inspection season with an equal amount of inspection time to be matched by the MN DNR. The contract dates were May 15th through September 6th. Thirteen watercraft inspectors were hired in the St Cloud area and some were assigned to work at Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lake accesses to accomplish the 900 hours.

The inspection process consists of a six-question survey that ensures that boaters are aware of the issues surrounding invasive species and incorporates the inspector walking the boater around the watercraft to show them where they should be looking for invasive species. Survey questions focus on boater knowledge and behavior with information given on the impacts of invasive species and what can be done to prevent their spread.

The data in this report will be based on all hours and inspections done at Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes in the 2010 season.

Inspection Results:

Watercraft Inspectors worked 1,206 hours (1,072.25 hours of access time and 133.75 hours of drive time) at the Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lake accesses. During this time 1,220 inspections were completed (table 1).

Table 1. Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes summary of inspections in 2010.

Access Name	Number of Boaters/Inspections	Enter/Exit/Unknown	Hours	Insp. per Hour
Le Homme Dieu	372	231/132/9	303.75	1.22
Victoria	179	134/45/0	124.75	1.43
Geneva	298	231/62/5	197.5	1.5

Access Name	Number of Boaters/Inspections	Enter/Exit/Unknown	Hours	Insp. per Hour
Darling	116	77/39/0	167.25	0.69
Carlos	255	182/66/7	279	0.91

Out of the 1,220 watercraft inspected at Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes forty-five were found to have attached vegetation. Of those, nineteen were entering the water. One was inspected prior to entering Carlos, two were inspected prior to entering Le Homme Dieu, four were inspected prior to entering Geneva, and twelve were inspected prior to entering Darling. The watercraft were inspected prior to entering the water and the operators were asked to remove any vegetation. Twenty six watercraft were found to have attached vegetation while exiting. Two were inspected while exiting Carlos, seven were inspected while exiting Le Homme Dieu, seven were inspected while exiting Geneva, and ten were inspected while exiting Darling.

No other plants or animals were found.

The following information has been provided as a summary of the inspections done at Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes in the 2010 season. Information we gather helps us understand risks involved, for example boaters coming from waters infested with zebra mussels are more likely to transport zebra mussels than those coming from non infested waterbodies.

The surveys done during the inspection process found that 421 out of 1,220 inspections completed had come to Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes from a waterbody in Minnesota known to be infested with zebra mussels. However only 20 of the 421 boaters stated that they had come from a zebra mussel infested waterbody that is not one of the lakes included in this grant. The majority of those 20 watercrafts were coming from Mississippi River (table 2).

Table 2. Watercraft entering or exiting Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes that last used zebra mussel infested waters

Waterbody	Last Waterbody	Enter/Exit	Number of Watercraft
Carlos	Carlos Lake	Enter	68
Carlos	Carlos Lake	Exit	27
Carlos	Carlos Lake	Unknown	2
Carlos	Darling Lake	Exit	1
Carlos	Geneva Lake	Enter	2
Carlos	Le homme dieu	Enter	1
Carlos	Le homme dieu	Exit	1
Carlos	Mille Lacs Lake	Enter	1
Carlos	Mille Lacs Lake	Exit	1
Carlos	Mississippi River	Enter	2

Carlos	Mississippi River	Exit	1
Carlos	Prior Lake	Enter	1
Carlos	Superior	Exit	1
Carlos	Victoria Lake	Enter	1
Darling	Carlos Lake	Enter	2
Darling	Darling Lake	Enter	25
Darling	Darling Lake	Exit	21
Darling	Gull Lake	Enter	1
Darling	Mille Lacs Lake	Enter	1
Darling	Mississippi River	Enter	1
Darling	Pelican Lake	Enter	1
Darling	Pelican Lake	Exit	1
Darling	Prior Lake	Enter	1
Geneva	Carlos Lake	Enter	6
Geneva	Carlos Lake	Exit	6
Geneva	Darling Lake	Enter	1
Geneva	Geneva Lake	Enter	70
Geneva	Geneva Lake	Exit	16
Geneva	Geneva Lake	Unknown	1
Geneva	Gull Lake	Enter	1
Geneva	Mille Lacs Lake	Enter	1
Geneva	Prior lake	Enter	1
Geneva	Victoria Lake	Enter	6
Geneva	Victoria Lake	Exit	1
Le Homme Dieu	Carlos Lake	Enter	14
Le Homme Dieu	Carlos Lake	Exit	14
Le Homme Dieu	Darling Lake	Enter	4
Le Homme Dieu	Darling Lake	Exit	2
Le Homme Dieu	Geneva Lake	Enter	5
Le Homme Dieu	Geneva Lake	Exit	4
Le Homme Dieu	Le Homme Dieu	Enter	7
Le Homme Dieu	Le Homme Dieu	Exit	7
Le Homme Dieu	Mississippi River	Enter	1
Le Homme Dieu	Mississippi River	Exit	1
Le Homme Dieu	Victoria Lake	Enter	4
Victoria	Carlos Lake	Enter	1
Victoria	Mille Lacs Lake	Enter	1
Victoria	Mississippi River	Exit	1
Victoria	Victoria Lake	Enter	64
Victoria	Victoria Lake	Exit	17

The surveys found that about 5.6% of the boaters who were inspected either entering or exiting Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes had come from another state. These boats likely represent another high-risk group (table 3).

Table 3. Watercraft from states other than MN who used Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes.

Waterbody	State	Enter/Exit	Number of Watercraft	ZM Present in State
Carlos	CO	Enter	1	X
Carlos	IA	Enter	3	X
Carlos	NE	Enter	1	X
Carlos	NY	Exit	1	X
Carlos	USGS	Enter	1	
Carlos	WI	Exit	1	X
Darling	AK	Enter	1	
Darling	IA	Enter	3	X
Darling	IA	Exit	2	X
Darling	IL	Enter	2	X
Darling	IL	Exit	2	X
Darling	ND	Enter	3	
Darling	ND	Exit	1	
Darling	NE	Enter	1	X
Geneva	FL	Enter	1	
Geneva	IA	Enter	3	X
Geneva	IA	Exit	1	X
Geneva	IA	Unknown	1	X
Geneva	IL	Enter	1	X
Geneva	ND	Enter	3	
Geneva	SC	Enter	1	
Geneva	SD	Enter	1	
Geneva	SD	Exit	2	
Le Homme Dieu	IA	Enter	7	X
Le Homme Dieu	IA	Exit	1	X
Le Homme Dieu	IA	Unknown	1	X
Le Homme Dieu	IL	Exit	1	X
Le Homme Dieu	MO	Exit	1	X
Le Homme Dieu	NE	Enter	1	X
Le Homme Dieu	SD	Enter	1	
Le Homme Dieu	SD	Exit	3	
Le Homme Dieu	TX	Exit	1	X
Le Homme Dieu	WI	Enter	2	X
Le Homme Dieu	WI	Exit	2	X
Victoria	IA	Enter	2	X

Victoria	IA	Exit	1	X
Victoria	IN	Enter	1	X
Victoria	ND	Enter	3	
Victoria	ND	Exit	1	
Victoria	OH	Enter	1	X
Victoria	TX	Enter	1	X

We use a decal with the current year on it to track if a boater has been inspected in the current year. Boaters who have been inspected in the current year are more likely to be educated about invasive species and how to prevent their spread. Below is the number of inspections broken down by whether they had a current year decal and would be a repeat, had a previous year's decal and had talked to us in past years, or had never spoken to us before (table 4).

Table 4. Decal summary at Le Homme Dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes, comparison from 2009 to 2010

<u>Year</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Entering</u>	<u>Exiting</u>	<u>Curr Yr Dec</u>	<u>Prev. Yr decal</u>	<u>No decal</u>
2009 Le Homme Dieu	275	148	116	76	41	155
2010 Le Homme Dieu	372	231	132	122	78	171
2009 Victoria	58	34	22	9	17	31
2010 Victoria	179	134	45	42	27	109
2009 Geneva	113	69	43	31	24	58
2010 Geneva	298	231	62	75	66	155
2009 Darling	0	0	0	0	0	0
2010 Darling	116	77	39	26	27	63
2009 Carlos	124	65	54	31	26	67
2010 Carlos	255	182	66	65	60	65

We have data for 1,220 boaters who were asked if they are familiar with invasive species, 101 (or 8.2%) of them were not familiar with invasive species. When asked if they were familiar with Eurasian water milfoil 153 out of 1,220 (or 12.5%) said they were not familiar. We also asked boaters if they were familiar with zebra mussels and the problems they cause and 218 out of 1,220 (or 17.8%) of boaters said they were not familiar with zebra mussels. These numbers illustrate that while many of the boaters we contacted are aware of the problems associated with invasive species and the specific problems that are caused by Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels we also contacted users who are not aware of these issues.

Discussion:

Our goal in the 2010 season was to accomplish 900 hours of inspection; we reached our goal by completing 1,206 hours. While the number of hours on LeHomme dieu, Victoria, Geneva,

Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes increased significantly from 287.75 in 2009 to 1,206 in 2010; the inspection per hour decreased from 1.98 in 2009 to 1.13 in 2010. Out of the 1,220 inspections done at LeHomme dieu, Victoria, Geneva, Darling, Carlos, Alvin, and Jessie Lakes, 821 (or 67%) had not been inspected during the 2010 boating season and were an important audience for us to contact.