

Wadena County 2023 AIS Watercraft Inspection Summary Report

Lake Name	Total Hours	Total Inspections	Total Entering	% Entering	Total Existing	% Exiting	Drain Plug in On Arrival	% Drain Plug in on Arrival	Out of State	% From Out of State
Lower Twin	228	265	144	54.34%	92	34.72%	0	0.00%	18	6.79%
Spirit	304	226	125	55.31%	101	44.69%	0	0.00%	9	3.98%
Blueberry	304.25	478	236	49.37%	197	41.21%	1	0.42%	28	5.86%
Stocking	234	147	89	60.54%	56	38.10%	1	1.12%	7	4.76%
Totals	1070.25	1116	594	53.23%***	446	39.96%***	2	0.34%	62	5.56%***

Our 2023 AIS watercraft inspections took place May through September where we had a total of 1116 inspections completed throughout the season. This number is based on the amount of uploaded surveys from the tablets inspectors are given at the start of the season. Overall, this is up 110 surveys from our record last year (2022).

From the uploaded surveys, we divvied out the number and percentage of recreationists either entering or leaving each lake access to gain an overall idea of the popularity of each. Please note though that not all the percentages add up as a handful of surveys did not specify this information. Similar to last year, Blueberry Lake was the most sought after lake in Wadena County with the highest total inspections of 478.

Next, we wanted to highlight the total number of boaters arriving with the drain plug being in, which was 2. This is existing news as this number is down from last year (in 2022, this total was 4); which signals that more recreationists were aware (or made aware) of the MN Drain Plug Law(*). Overall, our 2 boaters out of all lake accesses, comes out to be 0.34% from the total entering inspections, whereas the 4 boaters of last season totaled 0.77% of the total entering inspections.

***MN Drain Plug Law: When leaving a water of the state, a person must drain water-related equipment holding water and live wells and bilges by removing the drain plug before transporting the water-related equipment. [Sec. 84D. 10 MN Statutes]**

*****Percent totals are based off the overall total inspections**

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Lake Name	Plant of Snail Species	% of Plant of Snail Species	Number from Infested	% From Infested	Number From ZM Infested	% From ZM Infested	Number from FS Infested	% From FS Infested
Lower Twin	28	10.57%	98	36.98%	14	5.28%	92	34.72%
Spirit	0	0.00%	29	12.83%	8	3.54%	19	8.41%
Blueberry	42	8.79%	223	46.65%	37	7.74%	199	41.63%
Stocking	1	0.68%	66	44.90%	11	7.48%	56	38.10%
Totals	71	6.36%***	416	37.28%***	70	6.27%***	366	32.80%

The next series numbers and percentages we wanted to highlight are the totals for each section, as they all increased from last year. These all have to do with infested waters list as well as plants or animals being found during either an entering or exiting inspection. This season, the amount of plant or snail species being found during an inspection totaled 71, or 6.36% from the total inspections. In 2022, this percentage was 5.07%.

Likewise, recreationists coming from infested waters in 2023 amounted to 416 whereas in 2022 it was 366. This increase makes sense to see as more waters are becoming infested with some sort of invasive species. Thus, we also saw an increase in numbers from specifically zebra mussel and facet snail infested waters. For zebra mussels, we had 70 for 2023, which is up 10 from last year; and for Facet Snails we have 366 for this year and recorded 282 in 2022.

Moreover, this information is based on the DNR designated Infested Waters List, which can be found online here: [Infested Waters List | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#) This list does not include waters infested with curly leaf pondweed, so our numbers for the amount of recreationists coming from infested waters may be slightly off.

Finally, we still only have 3 out of our 4 major lakes in Wadena County listed as infested. These are Lower Twin, Blueberry, and Stocking Lakes which have faucet snails reported in them.

***Percent and totals based on the DNR Designated Infested Waters List which does NOT include curly-leaf pondweed and other invasives**

****Plant and snail species not specified in surveys**

*****Percent totals are based off the overall total inspections**

ZM—Zebra Mussels FS—Faucet Snails