

WATER GUARD PROGRAM

UPDATE: 2016



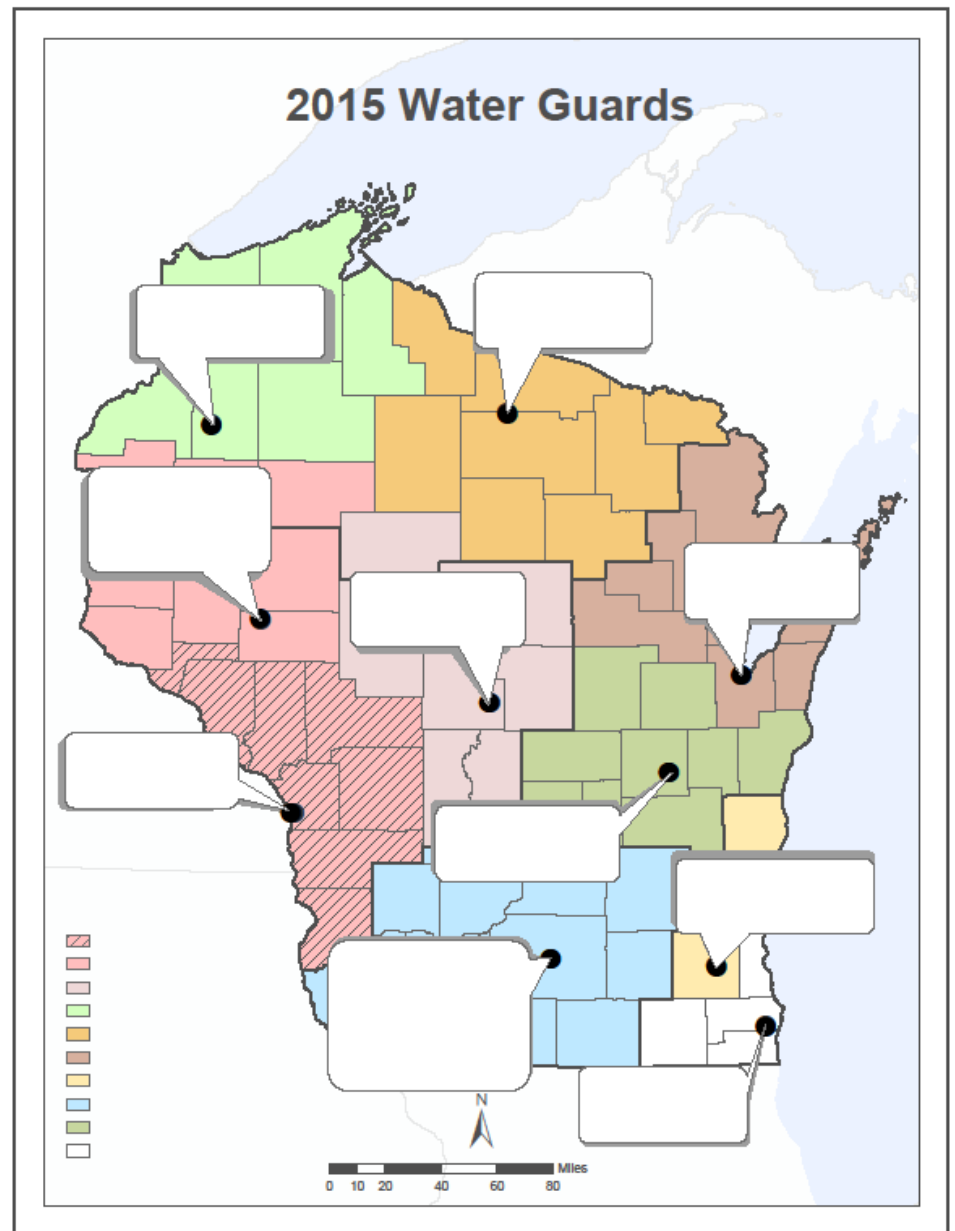
WG LOCATIONS!

In 2016:

Added a position in
Ashland, WI!!

12 WG's

1 WG Coordinator





FORMER WATER GUARD LYNDIE GUENTHER

WHAT IS A WATER GUARD!?

WHAT IS A WATER GUARD??

Water Guards are credentialed and un-credentialed DNR staff in the Bureau of Law Enforcement that work to prevent and control the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in WI waterbodies.

They seek to protect waterways in WI through education and enforcement.

There are currently 11 Water Guards spread throughout the state of Wisconsin.



WG TRAINING

Classroom and Field work!

AIS Identification

Professional Communication

Enforcement

Boats: Parts and Safety

Decontamination Units
Classroom
Hands on Training
Certification!



WG INVOLVEMENT (STATEWIDE)

- Landings and Events
- Fishing Tournaments
 - Walleye Weekend
 - Brew City Tournament
 - Cabela's Tournament
- Boating Safety Classes
- Classroom AIS
- Sportsman and Fishing Clubs
- Group Check Involvement with Wardens in EVERY area
- WG GROUP CHECK
- Waterfowl Outreach/Edu.
- Contacts !!!!
 - Shore fisherman
 - Boaters
 - Recreational Users
- Other Involvement
 - Partnership with CBCW staff on landings
 - Partnership with DNR AIS staff
 - Community Policing: Presence
 - Public Outreach
 - County/City/Town meetings
 - Enforcement Support for Full Time Wardens
 - NR 40 training for DNR staff
 - Wardens
 - AIS citations
 - OWI offenses
 - Registration and License Issues

CONTACTS IN 2016

			Week									
		Totals	06/19/16	06/26/16	07/03/16	07/10/16	07/17/16	07/24/16	07/31/16	08/07/16	08/14/16	08/21/16
Contacts	Boats	3400	189	367	363	245	198	242	405	219	252	252
	People	8492	448	879	967	649	445	598	1230	635	553	553
	Shore anglers	1130	92	89	152	87	91	70	96	80	59	59
	Other watercraft	575	47	36	73	46	22	35	23	38	59	59
Education	Boats Deconned	114	14	6	50	0	3	11	9	2	2	2
	Events	36	2	3	4	0	2	1	6	6	2	2
	People at Events	8470	500	80	490	0	700	250	2818	1800	337	337
	Training	9	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2
	People at Training	83	12	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	7	7
	Bait Shops	39	0	0	9	6	7	0	0	9	1	1
	AIS Media Contacts	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AIS Enforcement	Verbal Warn	101	11	8	11	9	7	5	11	12	1	1
	Written Warn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Citations	9	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other Enforcement	Verbal Warning	89	5	16	17	9	7	8	5	1	3	3
	Written Warning	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Citation	57	6	5	12	6	3	5	5	2	3	3

CONTACTS COMPARISON

2014

AIS Education	May	June	July	August	September	Season Total
Boats	694	1027	1167	693	153	3734
Contacts	1269	1475	1937	1121	318	6120
Shore Anglers	212	270	348	186	39	1055
Personal Water Crafts	16	6	28	39	9	98
Kayaks	5	18	8	22		53

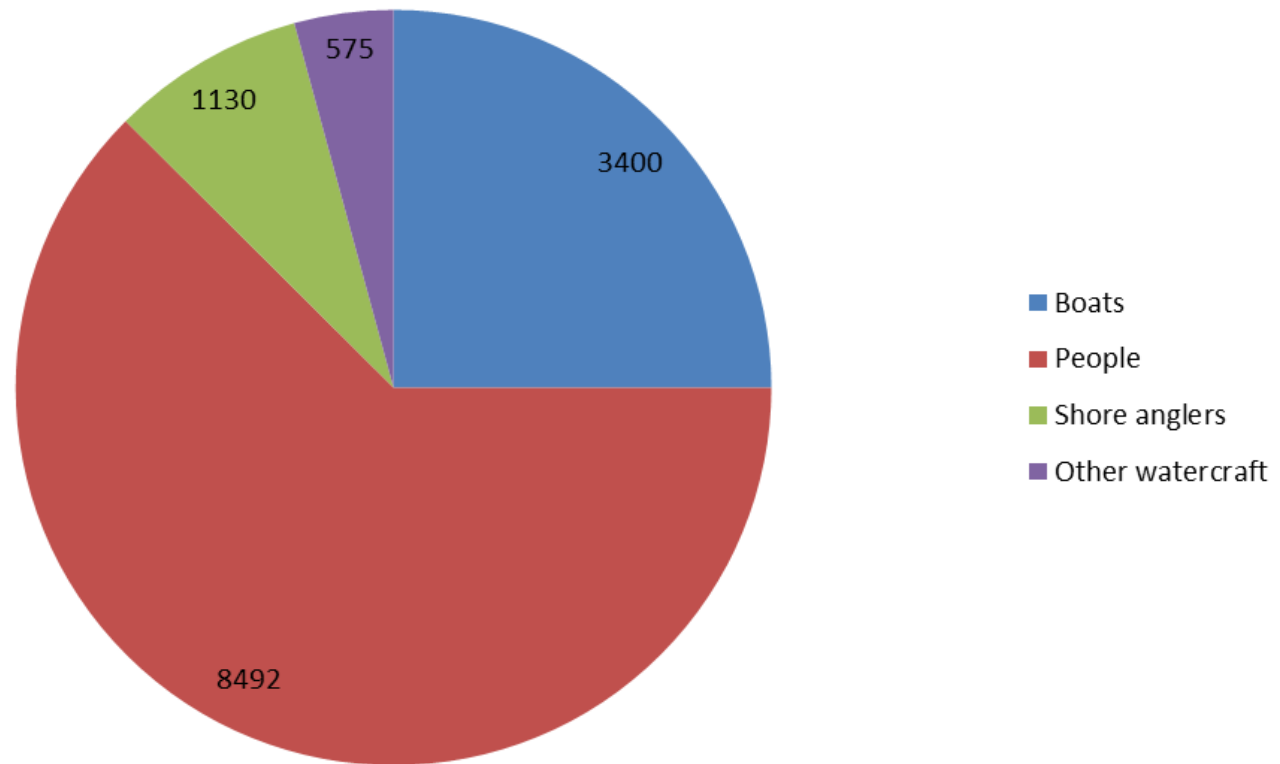
AIS Education	May	June	July	August	September	Season Total
Boats Decontaminated	24	6	14			44
Marinas	4	1	1			6
Events	1	4	9	17		31
People at Events	200	231	1776	2358		4565
Training	1	3	2	1		7
People at Training	10	41	20	12		83
Bait Shops	1	1	1			3
AIS Media Contact		2	1		1	4

AIS Enforcement	May	June	July	August	September	Season Total
Weed Warnings		2	11	11	1	25
Weed Citations			4	3	1	8
Water Warnings	3	3	4	1	2	13
Water Citations						
Fish Warnings			1			1
Fish Citations						

2016

		Totals	06/19/16	06/26/16
Contacts	Boats	3400	189	367
	People	8492	448	879
	Shore anglers	1130	92	89
	Other watercraft	575	47	36
Education	Boats Deconned	114	14	6
	Events	36	2	3
	People at Events	8470	500	80
	Training	9	2	0
	People at Training	83	12	0
	Bait Shops	39	0	0
	AIS Media Contacts	2	0	0
AIS Enforcement	Verbal Warn	101	11	8
	Written Warn	0	0	0
	Citations	9	2	1
Other Enforcement	Verbal Warning	89	5	16
	Written Warning	0	0	0
	Citation	57	6	5

CONTACTS STATEWIDE



DECONTAMINATION UNITS

- 3 units total
 - 2 owned by WG team. 1 owned by WDNR AIS Program
 - Require yearly maintenance
- Stationed in Spooner, Waukesha, and Green Bay
 - Travel Statewide
- Specialized Training for the WG team
- 34 Boats Decontaminated in 2014
 - Wanted to utilize units more effectively
- 114 in 2016



EDUCATION

- Organisms in Trade
- 2 Media Contacts (WG focus)
 - TV
 - News Articles
- 114 Boats Decontaminated
- 8470 People at Event
- 36 Events
 - State Fairs
 - Expos
 - Classrooms
 - Boater Safety/DNR classrooms



OIT

- Bait Shops
- Nurseries
- Pet Stores

- Organisms in Trade

- Worked with AIS Staff to support bait shop and pet store visits to ensure NR-40 compliance
- Used primarily education to gain compliance
- Increased bait shop visits from 3 in 2014 to 39 in 2016!
- Continued support statewide for AIS staff pertaining to OIT

ENFORCEMENT

- AIS warnings (WG involvement) for weeds and water increased from 38 in 2014 to 101 in 2016.
- 9 AIS related citations during the summer.
- Partnered with the Warden force for 57 additional DNR citations (89 warnings).
- Continued partnerships between AIS staff and Warden force.

OUTCOME

- Gain compliance of NR-40 through education and enforcement efforts
- Change public's behavior and perspective of AIS in Wisconsin
- Create and maintain strong partnerships internally and externally (WI DNR)
- Protect individuals and natural resources

FUTURE

- Organisms in Trade
- Enforcement
- Group Checks
- Water vs. Vegetation
- Strengthen Partnerships
- Get Creative!!
- Waterfowl Outreach



THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!!!!



ANY QUESTIONS!?

UMISC 2016: SAMANTHA OLSEN
WATER GUARD COORDINATOR



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net



Habitattitude
PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT
DO NOT RELEASE FISH AND AQUATIC PLANTS