

ISCCW 2021 Operating Plan

As in past years, the ISCCW will continue its policies of education, eradication, and prevention as its primary orientations during the open water season.

2020 was a difficult year. Very few events were held and our educator was not able to make as many contacts as we would like. In addition, we were only able to field 2 boat washers for lack of anyone willing to take the job of running the third machine. We can only hope that 2021 will be different.

In that vein, we have sent out feelers to our partners in search of competent employees and, with the help of the US Forest Service, we will attempt to operate four (4) boat washers throughout the summer months beginning with one washer at Thunder Bay on Lac Vieux Desert the first Saturday in May and all four in service May 15th. We will continue this service until mid-October depending upon the weather. In 2018 we purchased a new power washer which allowed us to station the oldest one, the 4th, at Northern Edge Marina in Land O' Lakes for them to use washing boats prior to test launching in Moon Lake. Moon Lake is free of invasive species and we would like to keep it that way so we will be doing that again in 2021 if we are unable to find a fourth employee. Our educator will continue attending local events (i.e. Lake Association meetings, Forest Service Events, Library programs, USFS Visitor Center Information Nights, parades, etc.) maintaining a constant positive presence in the public eye. In addition, the coordinator will continue the responsibility for the scheduling of hours of operation and locations for our boat wash units. Finally, the coordinator will be responsible for coordinating ISCCW events, such as on water training and student involvement projects. In cooperation with Iron County Lakes & Streams Partnership we plan to hold a major conference on shoreline restoration if we are able and, if not, plan for 2022. Frequent press articles will be provided by the Education/PR Committee, giving further exposure to the ISCCW, its mission, and its overall involvement within Watersmeet Township.

All washers will be put into service with continued emphasis on targeting boats launching and exiting infected lakes so as to prevent boats from transporting invasive species from those lakes to lakes which may not be infected and to prevent the introduction of new invasive species to a lake already infected. Boat washers will be assigned to priority lakes based on fishing pressures, known tournament schedules and effectiveness based on past history. Our informational trailer will again be stationed at the BP on the Michigan/Wisconsin border. NOTE: Schedules may be subject to change as the year progresses and 2021 use data becomes available.

As in the past we will continue to work closely with our partners on our Township waterways.

Our only funding for 2021 will be from the Township of Watersmeet, the USFS and member donations.

Assistance may be available in the permitting and treatment of other lakes in the Township with known or new outbreaks of invasive species. Our level of participation on additional waterways, which may come to our attention, will be dependent on the level of infestation and assistance required and our available resources.

No chemical treatment is planned for 2021. We will be closely monitoring both Langford and Bass Lakes for EWM infestation with possible chemical treatment in future years.

As time and resources permit, our contracted biologists will also be busy doing "meander surveys" and monitoring of various other waterways which are known to have had problems in the past or which are deemed to be susceptible to problems in the future. We will be emphasizing streams as well as lakes as our resources permit. We will also be spending time on water quality as it effects AIS. As in past years we continue to work closely our partners; Township Lake Associations, the USFS, the MDNR, WePIC, IBCD, the LVD Stakeholders Group, Watersmeet Township and the LVD Tribe.