

ISCCW 2022 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.

After a year of COVID lockdown, 2021 looked different than past years of operation. US Forest Service events did not resume and many of the education events and lake association meetings were held virtually or in smaller groups. As the summer progressed many programs resumed in person. Our boat washing operations had difficulty holding onto employees through the summer and we continue to look for solutions to the deficit.

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'll 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 another at Palmer Bay Landing on Big Lake. All four washers will be in service once Michigan Opening occurs on May 15th. We will continue this service until mid-October depending upon the weather. We have applied for a grant to purchase a 5th washer which we hope to rotate into our fleet allowing the oldest unit to remain at Northern Edge Marina throughout the boating season. This washer allows for safe testing of boats on Moon Lake which is free of AIS at present and supplies another set of eyes on boats as they come in for service.

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 2022 use data becomes available.

ISCCW is currently searching for a new person to fill the educator position. Our educator will be responsible for attending local events (i.e. Lake Association meetings, US Forest Service Events, USFS Visitor Center Information Nights, parades, etc.) maintaining a constant positive presence in the public eye. In addition, the educator will continue to coordinate the scheduling of hours of operation and locations for our boat wash units with the newly formed Boat Inspection Committee. Finally, the educator 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 will continue to hold on water events and with MSU Extension as well as sponsor summer events with LOLA. 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.

As in the past we will continue to work closely with our partners on our Township waterways. Our funding for 2022 will come from the Township of Watersmeet, the USFS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), member donations and pending grants if we are selected. 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 2022. 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 affects AIS. As in past years we continue to work closely our partners; Township Lake Associations, the US Forestry Service, the MDNR, WDNR, Western Peninsula Invasives Coalition (WePIC), Iron/Baraga Conservation District (IBCD), Iron County Lakes and Streams Partnership (ICLSP), MSU-Extension, the LVD Stakeholders Group, Watersmeet Township and the LVD Tribe.