

2026
ISCCW
Operating Plan

The ISCCW's main goal and mission of education, prevention, and eradication of Aquatic Invasive species (AIS) in local waterways in and around the Watersmeet, Michigan area will be accomplished by:

- continue to monitor the mitigation efforts of aquatic invasive species in Crooked Lake
- continue to strengthen our relationship with Watersmeet Township, and other border communities through our presence and partnership
- continue to strengthen our partnership with the Lac View Desert Band of Indians, as well as pursue further tribal collaborations regarding mitigation efforts of aquatic invasive species in an advisory capacity (Crooked Lake biodegradable benthic blanket research project grant)
- continue to pursue those grant opportunities relative to the ISCCW's goals and mission
- work to increase the ISCCW membership
- continue to enhance our partnership with Michigan State University's outreach specialists
- continue our fundraising efforts with the annual Musky Expo event and the Golfing for a Lake Scramble
- continue to research and expand ISCCW fund-raising endeavors
- increase public relation awareness regarding ISCCW's accomplishments, ongoing outreach and educational practices
- support ISCCW's "aid to lakes" efforts when funding is available
- continue to monitor the Wake Surf Boat ordinances and legislation as outlined in ISCCW's position paper.

The boat inspectors continue to be the face of ISCCW. The 2025 boat inspection season was very successful. Our boat inspection work at landings offered watercraft and trailer washing, which is considered the best practice in trying to control the spread of aquatic invasive species. This also provides the continued opportunity to educate watercraft users and other water recreationalists regarding the prevention of the spread of aquatic invasive species in local lakes. Thanks in part to the ISCCW boat inspectors in 2025:

- **7,288** total watercraft/trailers were inspected
- **18,733** total individuals were contacted by the boat inspectors
- **3,486** total watercraft/trailers were inspected and washed
- **Lake landing sites served:** Thousand Island, Misery Bay (LVD), Thunder Bay (LVD), Crooked Lake (Sylvania Wilderness), Big Lake (Palmer Bay), Duck Lake, Palmer Lake

Boat inspecting began the first Saturday in May on all lakes. Boat inspector work schedules are always subject to change, as fishing species opening dates vary in Michigan and Wisconsin. These individuals will be assigned to priority lakes based on fishing pressure, fishing tournament schedules, and individual landing use per our data collection. We will continue to offer our boat inspection service until mid-October depending upon weather.

The ISCCW educational consultant will continue to attend local events/venues/meetings (ex. lake association meetings, Michigan and Wisconsin DNR, US Forest Service events/meetings, summer holiday venues, fun runs, parades, etc.) and to maintain a positive presence in the community and surrounding areas. The educational consultant is responsible for coordinating ISCCW events such as water monitoring training, special community venues, meetings and educational events. In cooperation with Iron County Lakes & Streams Partnership (Iron River, Michigan), the ISCCW continues to partner with the Michigan State University outreach specialist for events which include, but are not limited to, MiCorps and the Clean Boats Clean Waters Programs, events and trainings. The ISCCW partnership with Watersmeet Township and the Lac View Desert Band of Indians will also be supported with our educational consultant and board members. The ISCCW events such as the annual Musky Expo, and the Golfing for a Lake Scramble are a continuation of our educational and awareness endeavors.

As in the past, we will continue to work closely with our township partners who are also invested in local waterway health and preservation. The ISCCW has received financial and grant support from Watersmeet Township, the US Forest Service, membership, private donations, and grants to continue with our efforts. The ICCW also welcomes the collaboration and/or partnership of other entities who work to control aquatic invasive species in other waterways with appropriate mitigation procedures.

The ISCCW's efforts include the monitoring of area lakes infested with Eurasian Water Milfoil and assistance with mitigation efforts as time and resources permit. The ISCCW annually contracts with Many Waters, LLC., biologists who continue to do monitoring, water quality testing and surveying of waterways known to have aquatic invasive species problems, or which are deemed to be susceptible to such problems. These biologists also hand pull aquatic invasive species through snorkeling and diving efforts. The ISCCW partners with a myriad of agencies, organizations and individuals all of who are listed on the ISCCW webpage. Information is also available through our Facebook and Instagram feeds.

