

## **DNR Public Access Inspections**

### **Expectations:**

The Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District requested, and it is stated in the income contract, that we have inspectors at both accesses on Pelican Lake between May 10<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup> of the 2007 season. That request encompassed a total of 363 possible inspection hours, the watercraft inspection program completed 370 hours total including drive time. PGOLID has been billed for 320 of those hours and the MN DNR funded 50 hours.

### **Results:**

**Inspections** — During the 2007 season 1,268 inspections were completed at Pelican Lake. Of those inspections a total of 799 were performed on watercraft entering the water and 465 were performed on watercraft exiting the water.

**Boats from zebra mussel infested waters** - The surveys found that two boaters out of 1,268 inspections done during the summer of 2007 at Pelican Lake had come to Pelican Lake from a waterbody in Minnesota known to be infested with zebra mussels. These waterbodies include Lake Superior, the St. Louis River, the St. Croix River, Lake Zumbro and Lake Ossawinnamakee, and Lake Mille Lacs. Of those two boaters interviewed, both were about to enter Pelican Lake, one had last been at the St. Croix River and one had last been at Lake Mille Lacs .

**Boats from other states** - The surveys found that about 27% of the boaters who were inspected either entering or exiting Pelican Lake had come from another state. These boats likely represent another high-risk group. Below is a table of each state boaters came from, whether there are zebra mussels present in that state, and how many from each state were inspected either entering or exiting the water.

State	Enter/Exit	Access	ZM Present in State	Number of boaters
AZ	Enter	56078601		1
AZ	Enter	56078602		1
CO	Enter	56078601		1
CO	Exit	56078601		1
IL	Exit	56078601	X	1
IN	Enter	56078601	X	2
KS	Enter	56078602		2
MT	Enter	56078602		1
ND	Enter	56078601		65
ND	Enter	56078602		156
ND	Exit	56078601		30
ND	Exit	56078602		64
SD	Enter	56078601	X	5
SD	Enter	56078602	X	1
SD	Exit	56078601	X	1
SD	Exit	56078602	X	8
WI	Enter	56078601	X	2
WI	Enter	56078602	X	1
WI	Exit	56078601	X	1

**Plants or zebra mussels detected** - None of the boats inspected were found to have zebra mussels on them, but 24 boats did have attached vegetation (compared to 140 in 2006). Of the 24 boats, 6 of the boats with attached vegetation were entering Pelican Lake. Our inspection results suggest that about .4% of the boats coming to Pelican Lake have attached vegetation. Conversely, 18 boats exiting Pelican Lake (or about 1.4%) were found to have attached vegetation.

Below is a table of how many inspections were done at each of the accesses with the inspections sorted into entering and exiting.

Access Name	Number of Boaters/Inspections	Enter/Exit	Hours	Insp per Hour
East	509	329/187	122.25	4.16
West	759	478/278	140.75	5.39

**Decals** - Below is the number of inspections broken down by whether they had a current year decal and would be a repeat, had a previous year's decal and had talked to us in past years, or had never spoken to us before.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Inspections Incoming</b>		<b>Outgoing</b>	<b>Curr Yr Dec</b>	<b>Prev. Yr</b>	<b>no decal</b>
<b>2006</b>	1,121	717	414	290	46	780
<b>2007</b>	1,268	799	465	366	226	675

**Boater origin and knowledge** - We have data for 1,121 boaters who were asked if they are familiar with invasive species, 82 or 7.3% of them were not familiar with invasive species. When asked if they were familiar with Eurasian water milfoil 90 out of 1,121 or 8% said they were not familiar. We also asked boaters if they were familiar with zebra mussels and the problems they cause and 239 out of 1,121 or 21.3% (compared to 33.6 in 2006) of boaters said they were not familiar with zebra mussels. These numbers illustrate that many of the boaters who are using Pelican Lake do not know about the problems associated with invasive species and the specific problems that are caused by Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels.

**Discussion:**

The 2007 season was very successful. We managed to fulfill many of the hours that the Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District had requested. Although drive time was still high, a total of 134 hours, it was down from last year's drive time of 142 hours even with the addition of 77 more hours of access time.

We have enjoyed working with you again this season and look forward to next season.

Sincerely,  
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