

## Pearl Lake Clean Boats Clean Waters AIS Summary

Prepared by John Bell, AIS Watercraft Inspector – Golden Sands, Inc.

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200 hours of Clean Boats Clean Waters AIS watercraft inspection coverage was provided by Golden Sands, Inc. May 28 - September 4, 2016 at the Pearl Lake public boat ramp on S. Pearl Lake Rd, just outside of Redgranite, WI.

For the most part, activity on the boat ramp was very sparse, despite some great weather conditions. Only 2 hours of ramp coverage had to be rescheduled due to weather over the course of the season. Ramp activity was heaviest just before 11am and just after 4pm. Traffic on the lake itself was pretty heavy between the hours of 11am and 4pm, especially on weekends. The water around the boat launch was very clear with a weed-free sandy bottom. It was rare to see any lake weeds coming out of the water, but any were removed prior to leaving the ramp area.

The majority of watercraft entering and leaving the boat ramp are residents on and around Pearl Lake. I had numerous repeat customers.

### Problems/Issues

None. All watercraft entering Pearl Lake were clean and free of water. All watercraft leaving the lake were cleaned and drained. Every boater was willing to answer questions and all understood the steps needed to prevent the spread of AIS. No invasive species were spotted.

### Summary of Activity

Total Watercraft Inspected	134
Total Other (3 spear fishermen)	1
Entering	92
Leaving	43
Previous Contact-Y?	51
Previous Contact-N?	84
Answer Questions-Y?	135
Answer Questions-N?	0
Other Waterbody 5 days-Y?	13
Other Waterbody 5 days-N?	122
AIS steps-Strongly Agree?	14
AIS steps-Agree ?	121
AIS steps-Disagree?	0
AIS steps-Strongly Disagree?	0
Total People Contacted	253
Average Watercraft per Hour of Coverage	.68
Average People Contacted per Hour of Coverage	1.27

### General Observations/Recommendations

- The Pearl Lake boat ramp is challenging to back a trailer down, due to its length, slope and the fact that there's a curve at the top...where there is a cement wall on one side and a 30-foot drop off on the other. This serves to cut down on launch activity. Very beautiful lake though!
- Anglers reported poor to fair fishing conditions. Not one took any fish out of the lake; most indicated they practice catch and release.
- The boat towel and freeze packs were huge hits with boaters. The bobbers were not, at least when I was attempting to hand them out. The last few weekends, I left them out overnight at the Silver Lake boat launch in Wautoma, where many were taken.
- If possible, cut down on the number of handouts. Some folks were a bit put off by the volume of materials. Perhaps combining everything into a small booklet might be more cost-effective and easier for inspectors to hand out and boaters to digest. After a couple days, I ended up paper clipping everything together and handing things out that way.

- I do not know all the considerations that go into awarding grants for watercraft inspections, but from a fiscal standpoint, Pearl Lake seems a bit expensive to cover due to the lack of steady ramp traffic. The redirection of some or all grant money to a busier waterbody or other conservation effort may be warranted. Perhaps reducing the number of coverage hours, concentrating on holiday weekends and/or augmenting with volunteers from the lake at other times might be an alternative. Again, I don't know all the factors that go into making these decisions.

Should you have any questions, or need any clarification, please feel free to contact me. I thoroughly enjoyed working for Golden Sands this summer and if I'm available next summer, I would be interested in working for you again.

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