

Wadena County 2024 AIS Watercraft Inspection Summary Report

Lake Name	Total Hours	Total Inspections	Total Entering	% Entering	Total Existing	% Exiting	Drain Plug in On Arrival	% Drain Plug in on Arrival	Out of State	% From Out of State
Lower Twin	222	218	110	50.5%	71	32.6%	0	0.00%	17	7.8%
Spirit	304	195	112	57.4%	78	40%	3	1.5%	12	6.2%
Blueberry	296	529	256	48.4%	230	43.5%	0	0.00%	44	8.3%
Stocking	222	165	123	74.5%	40	24.2%	0	0.00%	14	8.5%
Totals	1044	1107	601	54.3%***	419	37.9%***	3	0.49.9%	87	7.86%***

Our 2024 AIS watercraft inspections took place May through September where we had a total of 1107 inspections completed throughout the season. This number is based on the amount of uploaded surveys from the tablets inspectors are given at the start of the season. Overall, this is down 9 surveys from our record last year (2023).

From the uploaded surveys, we divvied out the number and percentage of recreationists either entering or leaving each lake access to gain an overall idea of the popularity of each. Please note though that not all the percentages add up as a handful of surveys did not specify this information. Similar to past years, Blueberry Lake was the most sought after lake in Wadena County with the highest total inspections of 529.

Next, we wanted to highlight the total number of boaters arriving with the drain plug being in, which was 3. This number is up from last year (in 2023, this total was 2); which still signals that recreationists are being made aware of the MN Drain Plug Law(*). Overall, our 3 boaters out of all lake accesses, comes out to be 0.49.9% from the total entering inspections, whereas the 2 boaters of last season totaled 0.34% of the total entering inspections.

***MN Drain Plug Law: When leaving a water of the state, a person must drain water-related equipment holding water and live wells and bilges by removing the drain plug before transporting the water-related equipment. [Sec. 84D. 10 MN Statutes]**

***Percent totals are based off the overall total inspections



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Lake Name	Plant of Snail Species Found**	% of Plant of Snail Species Found**	Number from Infested Waters	% From Infested Waters	Number From ZM Infested Waters*	% From ZM Infested Waters*	Number from FS Infested Waters*	% From FS Infested Waters*
Lower Twin	35	16.1%	84	39.9%	22	10%	67	30.7%
Spirit	2	1%	42	21.5%	19	9.7%	32	16.4%
Blueberry	17	3.2%	206	38.9%	48	9.1%	171	32.3%
Stocking	0	0.00%	75	45.5%	15	9.1%	64	38.8%
Totals	54	4.88%***	407	36.7%***	104	9.39%***	334	30.17%

The next series of numbers and percentages highlighted above are the totals for each section. These amounts have to do with the infested waters list as well as plants or animals being found during either an entering or exiting inspection survey. This season, the amount of plant or snail species being found during an inspection totaled 54, or 4.88% from the total inspections. In 2023, this percentage was 6.36%.

Likewise, recreationists coming from infested waters in 2024 amounted to 407 whereas in 2023 it was 416. This decrease is surprising given the amount of waters that were officially deemed infested with some sort of invasive species this season. Moreover, from these numbers, there was an increase the amount of boaters coming from zebra mussel infested waters and a decrease from Facet Snail infested waters. For zebra mussels, we had 104 for 2024, which is up 34 from last year while Facet Snails amounted to 334 for this year—down 32 from last year.

This information is based on the DNR designated Infested Waters List, which can be found online here: [Infested Waters List | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/infestedwaters/). This list does not include waters infested with curly leaf pondweed, so these numbers for the amount of recreationists coming from infested waters may be slightly off.

Finally, only 3 out of the 4 major lakes in Wadena County are still listed as infested. These are Lower Twin, Blueberry, and Stocking Lakes which have faucet snails reported in them.

***Percent and totals based on the DNR Designated Infested Waters List which does NOT include curly-leaf pondweed and other invasives**

****Plant and snail species not specified in surveys**

*****Percent totals are based off the overall total inspections**

ZM—Zebra Mussels FS—Faucet Snails

