

BLUE EARTH COUNTY

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention
Survey Results – Fall 2015



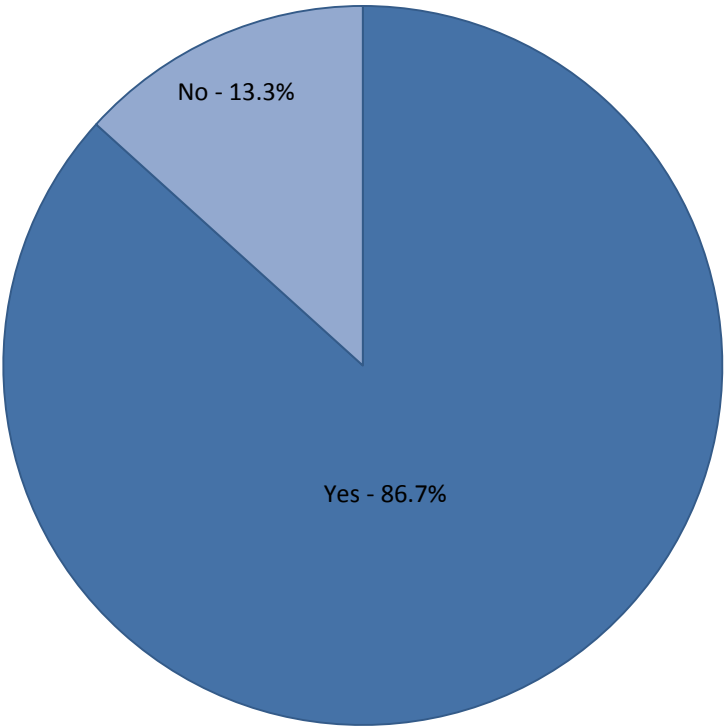
Background

During the process of writing the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid Plan and Guidelines, the county conducted a survey to help determine the most effective way to utilize AIS prevention funds. The 16 question survey was administered using SurveyMonkey in September and October 2015. The survey was promoted using the county website, press releases, and emails to lake associations. There were 75 survey respondents. The results are summarized in this document.

Question 1 - Do you live in Blue Earth County?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	86.7%	65
No	13.3%	10
<i>answered question</i>		75
<i>skipped question</i>		0

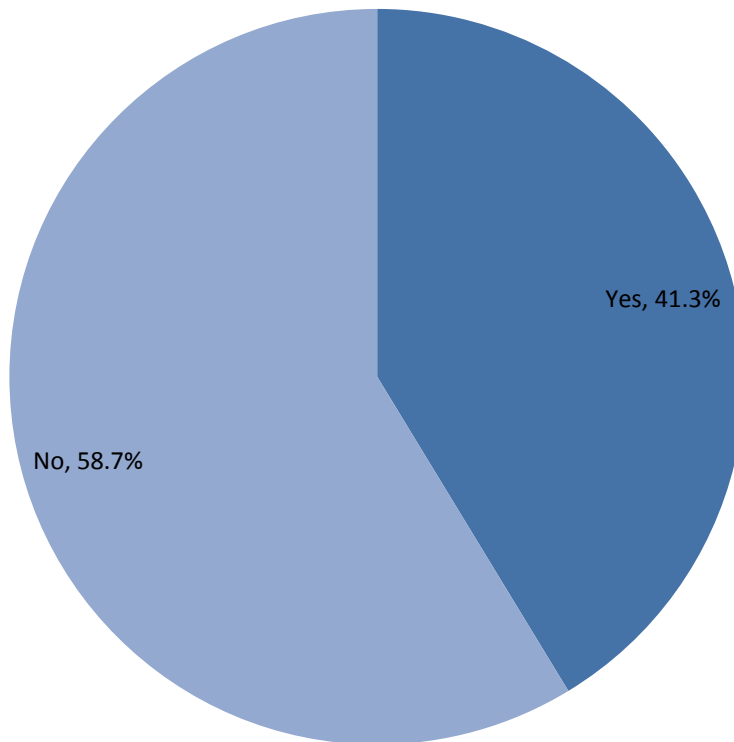
Do you live in Blue Earth County?



Question 2 - Are you a member of a lake association?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	41.3%	31
No	58.7%	44
<i>answered question</i>		75
<i>skipped question</i>		0

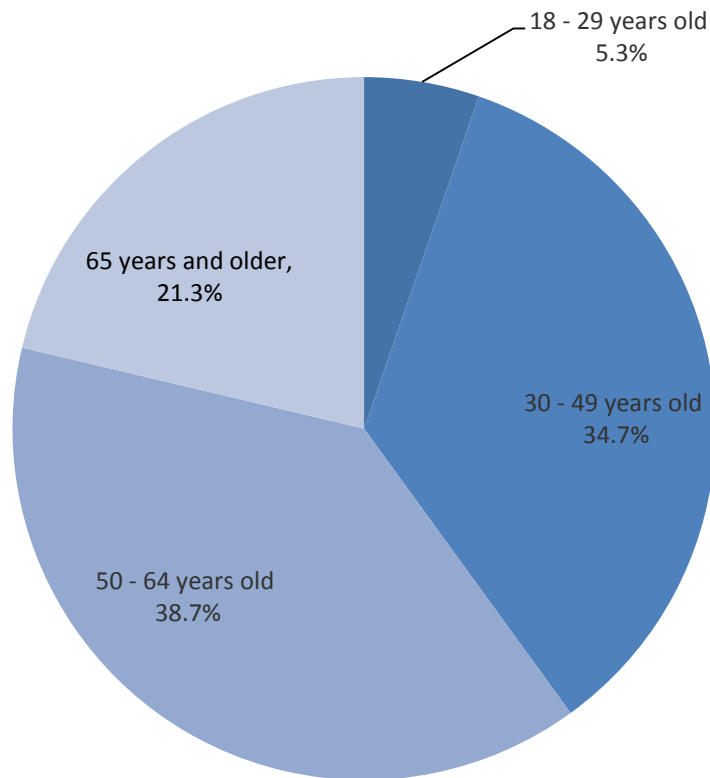
Are you a member of a lake association?



Question 3 – What is your Age?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Under 18 years old	0.0%	0
18 - 29 years old	5.3%	4
30 - 49 years old	34.7%	26
50 - 64 years old	38.7%	29
65 years and older	21.3%	16
<i>answered question</i>		75
<i>skipped question</i>		0

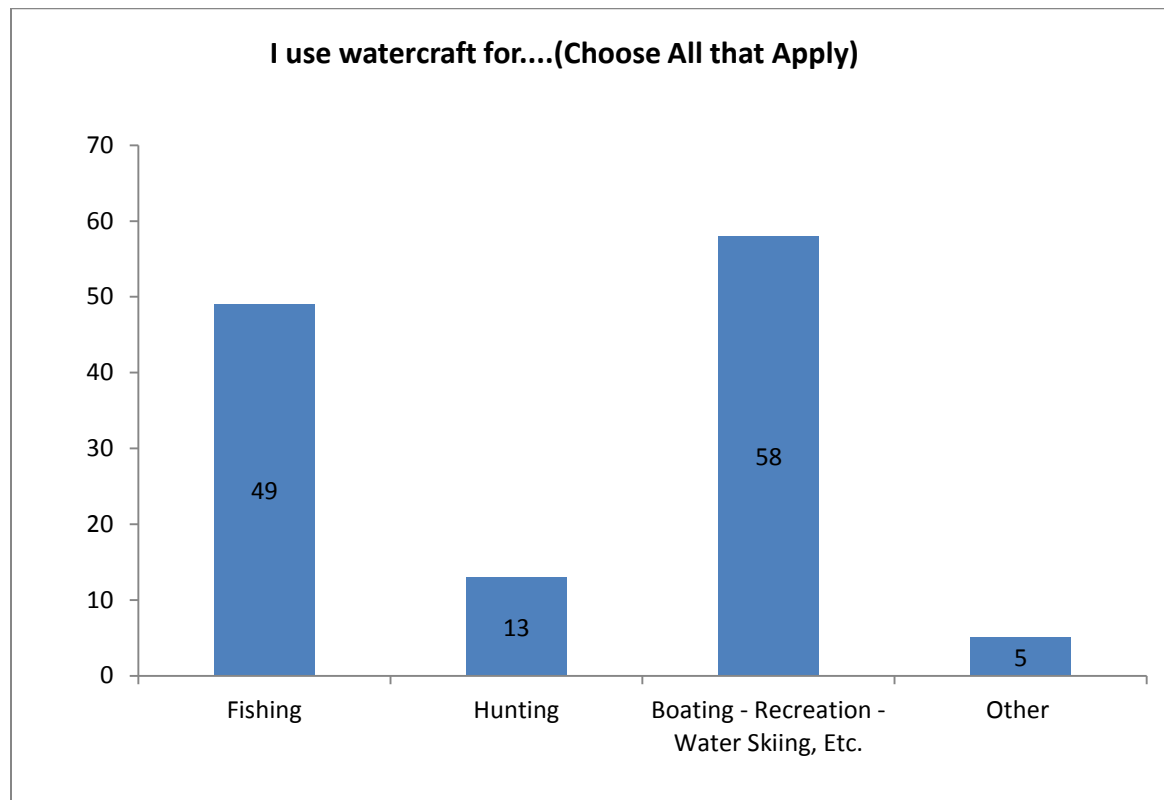
What is your age?



Question 4 - I use watercraft for....(Choose All that Apply)

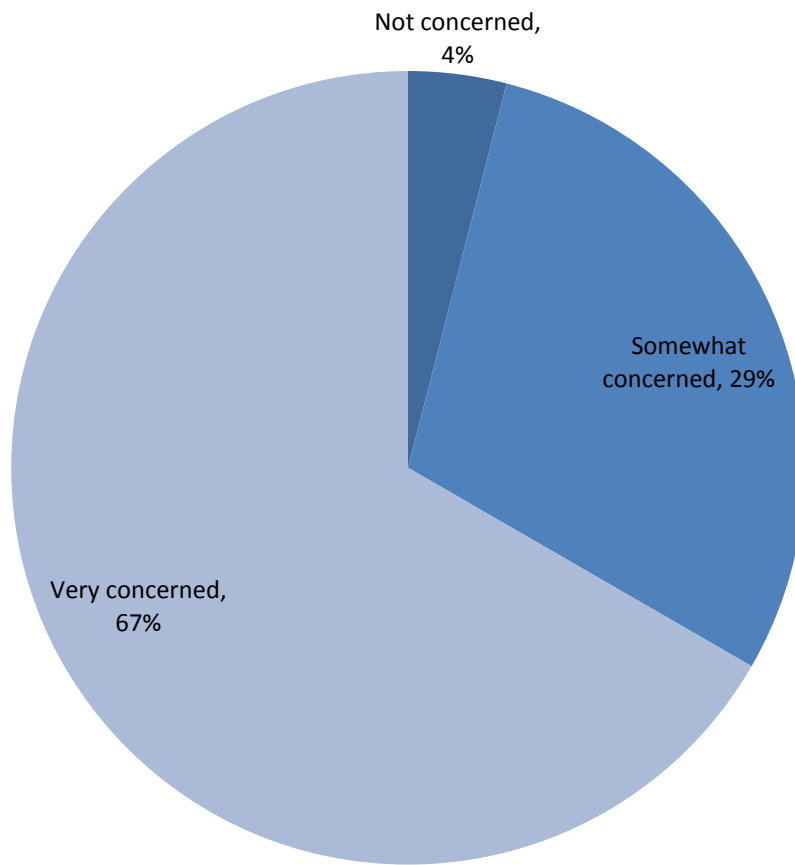
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fishing	70.0%	49
Hunting	18.6%	13
Boating - Recreation - Water Skiing, Etc.	82.9%	58
Other		5
<i>answered question</i>		70
<i>skipped question</i>		5

Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
1	Oct 3, 2015 9:26 PM	Beauty and health
2	Oct 1, 2015 3:23 PM	If you call a canoe a boat and if you call canoeing rivers to trap "recreation" even though it is hard work, then my check-mark in box 3 is appropriate.
3	Sep 30, 2015 7:41 PM	Swimming
4	Sep 30, 2015 3:44 PM	Viewing and enjoying
5	Sep 16, 2015 3:31 PM	Swimming



Question 5 - How concerned are you about aquatic invasive species in Blue Earth County's lakes and rivers?

Not concerned	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned		Response Count
3	22	50		75
<i>answered question</i>				75
<i>skipped question</i>				0



Question 6 - How effective do you think the following are at educating people about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species?

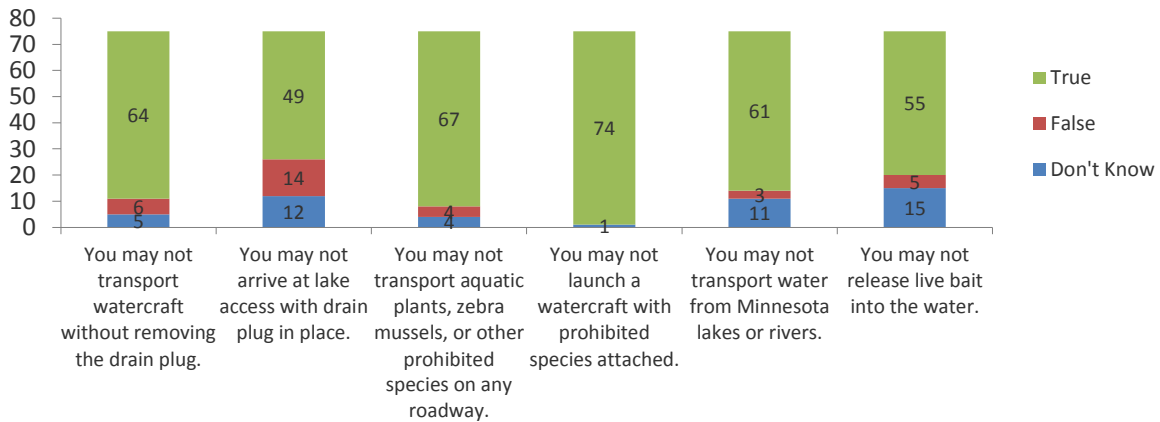
Answer Options	Don't Know	Not Effective	Somewhat Effective	Very Effective	Response Count
Television Ads	2	4	57	11	74
Radio Ads	1	13	54	5	73
Newspaper Ads	3	19	49	3	74
Billboards	5	14	42	13	74
Inspectors at boat landings	2	1	9	62	74
Factsheets or posters at bait shops	4	5	47	15	71
Signs at boat landings	1	4	36	34	75
Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, etc)	13	17	32	11	73
County Website	11	32	28	2	73
DNR Website	7	23	36	7	73
DNR Fishing Regulations	3	9	43	17	72
Other (please specify)					5
<i>answered question</i>					75
<i>skipped question</i>					0

Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
1	Oct 20, 2015 8:58 PM	Enforcement and fines are very effective
2	Oct 1, 2015 3:23 PM	Enforcement - Very Effective
3	Sep 28, 2015 8:25 PM	I'd recommend increasing the fine for not cleaning off watercraft before transport.
4	Sep 21, 2015 7:31 PM	Inspectors at boat landings don't do anything. After traveling to many lakes, they just sit there and do not even check the boats.
5	Sep 16, 2015 5:12 PM	Peer to peer - very effective

Question 7 - Minnesota laws are aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. Which of the following statements about Minnesota laws are true or false?

Answer Options	True	False	Don't Know	Response Count
You may not transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.	64	6	5	75
You may not arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.	49	14	12	75
You may not transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.	67	4	4	75
You may not launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.	74	0	1	75
You may not transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.	61	3	11	75
You may not release live bait into the water.	55	5	15	75
<i>answered question</i>				75
<i>skipped question</i>				0

Minnesota laws are aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. Which of the following statements about Minnesota laws are true or false?

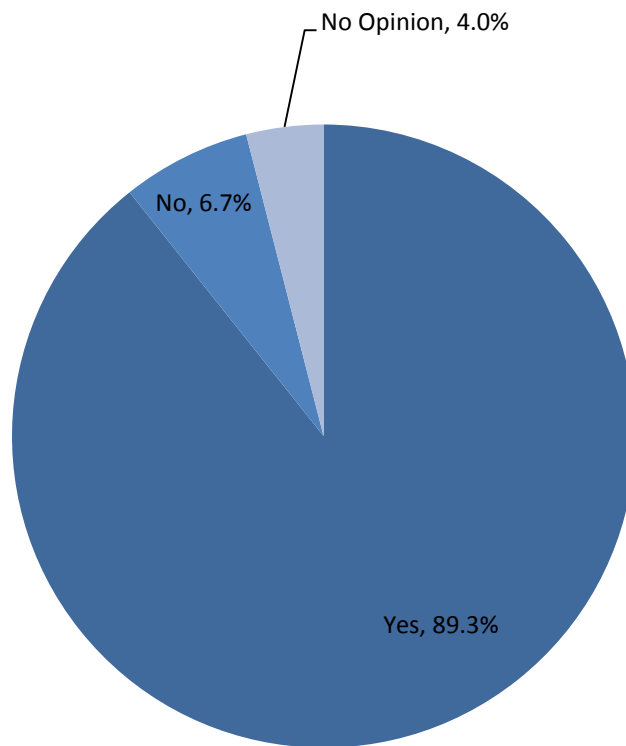


Note: All Statements are True

Question 8 - Do you think enforcement of State regulations is an effective way to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	89.3%	67
No	6.7%	5
No Opinion	4.0%	3
<i>answered question</i>		75
<i>skipped question</i>		0

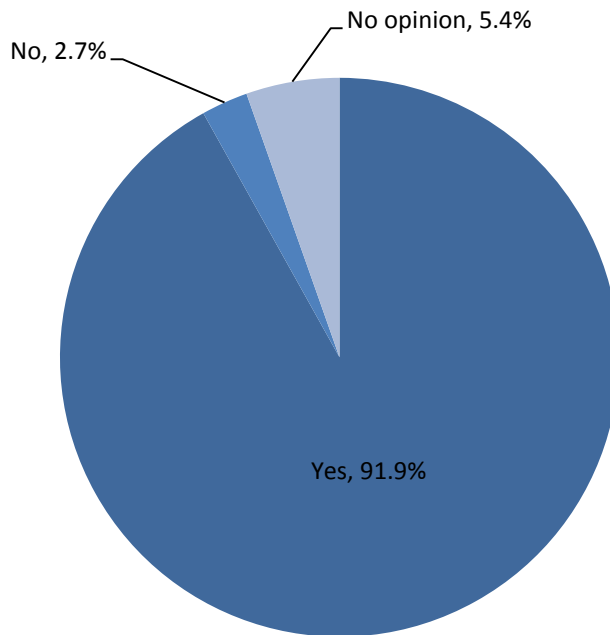
Do you think enforcement of State regulations is an effective way to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species?



Question 9 - Do you think inspectors and educators talking with watercraft users at boat launches about aquatic invasive species (AIS) are an effective way to prevent the spread of AIS?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	91.9%	68
No	2.7%	2
No opinion	5.4%	4
<i>answered question</i>		74
<i>skipped question</i>		1

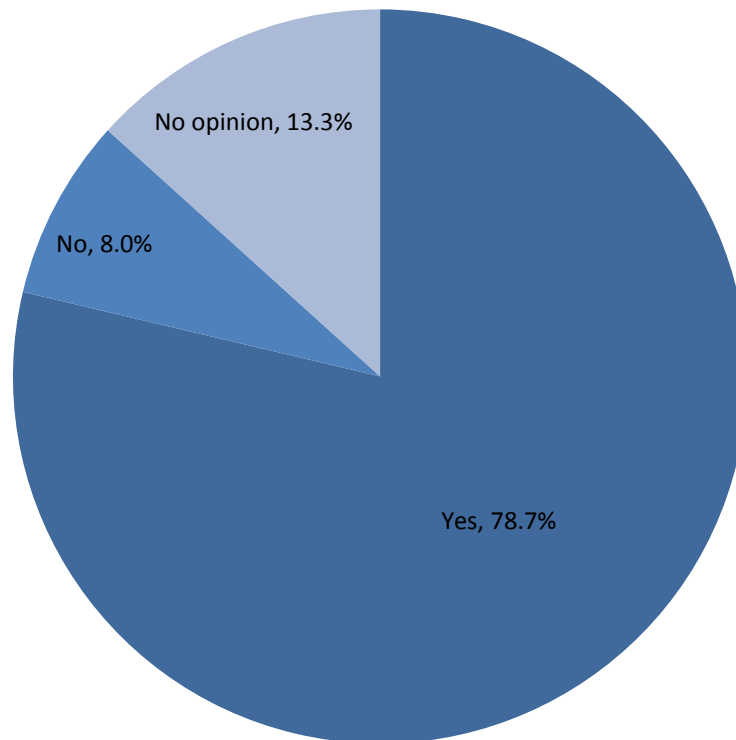
Do you think inspectors and educators talking with watercraft users at boat launches about aquatic invasive species (AIS) are an effective way to prevent the spread of AIS?



Question 10 - Do you think Blue Earth County should put more signs at watercraft launches to remind users to follow regulations to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	78.7%	59
No	8.0%	6
No opinion	13.3%	10
<i>answered question</i>		75
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Do you think Blue Earth County should put more signs at watercraft launches to remind users to follow regulations to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species?

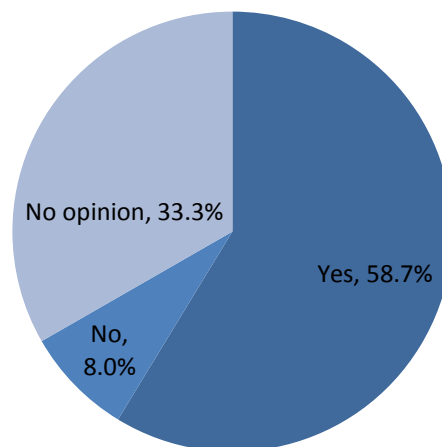


Question 11 - Do you think Blue Earth County should improve watercraft launches with better lighting to help users drain, clean and dry their watercraft when it's dark?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	58.7%	44
No	8.0%	6
No opinion	33.3%	25
If yes, which launches?		10
<i>answered question</i>		75
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Number	Response Date	If yes, which launches?
1	Oct 7, 2015 6:34 PM	Crystal Lake
2	Oct 3, 2015 9:26 PM	Madison Lake
3	Oct 1, 2015 3:39 PM	all
4	Oct 1, 2015 12:17 AM	North Shore Park,
5	Sep 30, 2015 7:41 PM	Madison Lake DNR Launch (east side)
6	Sep 28, 2015 8:25 PM	I'm not convinced the lighting would help, watercraft users need to be responsible and remove AIS on their own. Having said that we all know there are many that do not follow the regulations and I don't believe lighting the launch area would necessarily help that. I do believe it would help in the aspect of safety.
7	Sep 18, 2015 4:02 PM	Loon Lake
8	Sep 18, 2015 1:52 PM	Crystal lake, Loon Lake
9	Sep 18, 2015 1:52 AM	Loon Lake
10	Sep 16, 2015 4:23 PM	All

Do you think Blue Earth County should improve watercraft launches with better lighting to help users drain, clean and dry their watercraft when it's dark?



Question 12 - Are there other ways Blue Earth County could improve watercraft launches to help users comply with laws that are aimed at preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species?

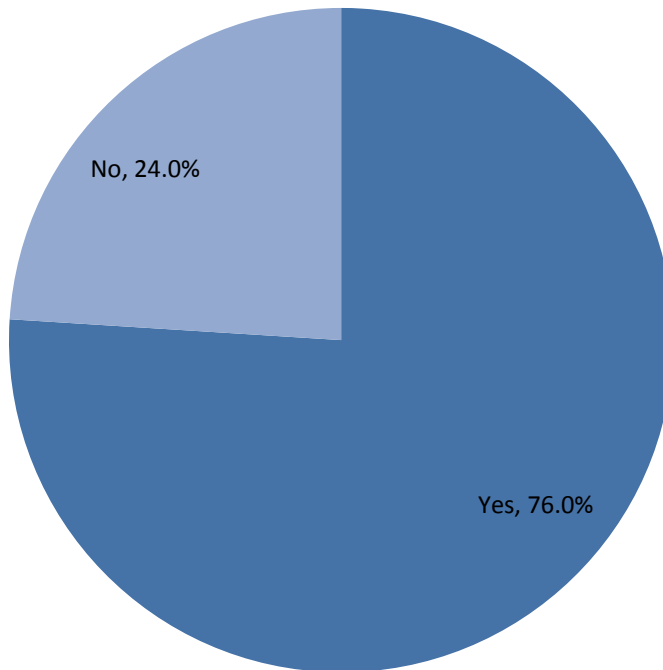
Answer Options	Response Count
	12
<i>answered question</i>	12
<i>skipped question</i>	63

Number	Response Date	Response Text
1	Oct 20, 2015 8:58 PM	provide enough area to pull out of the way to clean boat and trailer.
2	Oct 16, 2015 11:28 AM	use trained volunteers at landings at high traffic times.
3	Oct 7, 2015 2:46 PM	Have inspector at launches with power sprayer.
4	Oct 1, 2015 3:23 PM	As indicated in your referenced table, one of the best ways B.E. County can help prevent transportation of aquatic vegetation is the cleaning of floating material at launch sites. I think you are overlooking the need for this at shallow water wetland sites. You need to open the channel at Rice Lake by St Clair and you need to clear all vegetation from the channel of Rice Lake North of Winnebago. (B.E. Co. / Faribault Co. line).
5	Sep 30, 2015 9:21 PM	Spay equipment to spray off boats and trailers
6	Sep 28, 2015 8:25 PM	Although expensive boat rinse stations would help. I believe the state should require a mandatory training every three years when the watercraft is relicensed, this course could also incorporate boating safety, etc.
7	Sep 26, 2015 2:31 PM	Provide the funds to lake association boards for their use to prevent AIS.
8	Sep 18, 2015 7:43 PM	Try to keep AIS from growing around the launch area
9	Sep 16, 2015 4:23 PM	pressurized water to clean boat and trailer
10	Sep 16, 2015 3:26 PM	Boat cleaning system
11	Sep 14, 2015 3:28 PM	Bait dumping stations at every launches that have fishing asso. with them.
12	Sep 14, 2015 2:29 PM	Running Water?

Question 13- Do you own or rent a watercraft?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	76.0%	57
No	24.0%	18
<i>answered question</i>		75
<i>skipped question</i>		0

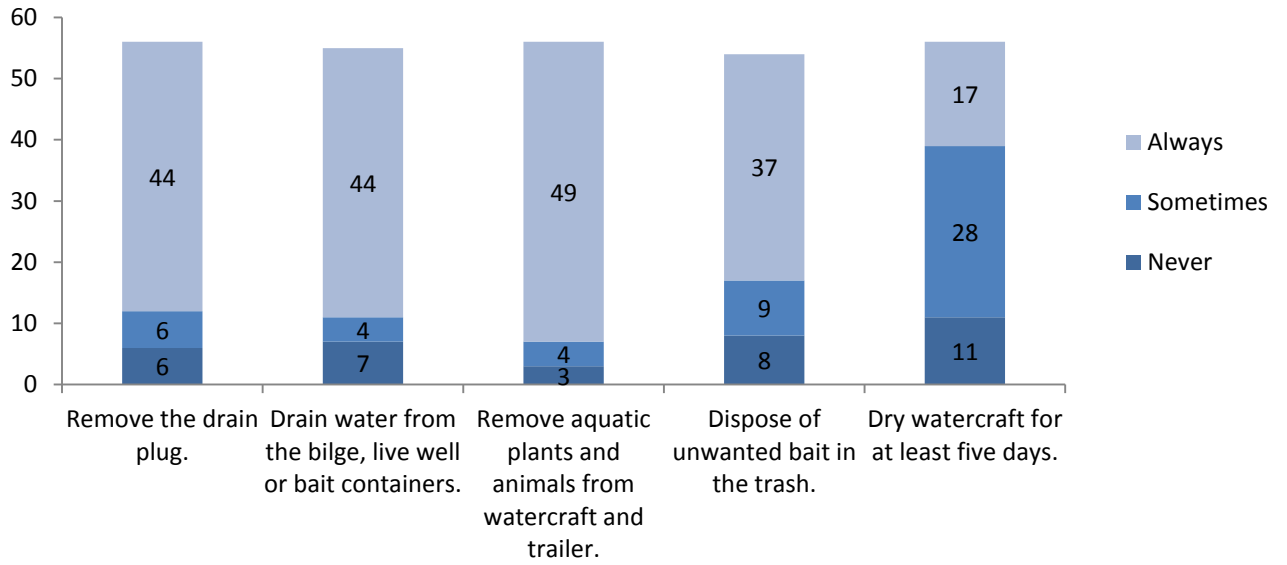
Do you own or rent a watercraft?



Question 14 - After you remove your watercraft from the water, how often do you take the following actions?

Answer Options	Always	Sometimes	Never	Response Count
Remove the drain plug.	44	6	6	56
Drain water from the bilge, live well or bait containers.	44	4	7	55
Remove aquatic plants and animals from watercraft and trailer.	49	4	3	56
Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.	37	9	8	54
Dry watercraft for at least five days.	17	28	11	56
	<i>answered question</i>			56
	<i>skipped question</i>			19

After you remove your watercraft from the water, how often do you take the following actions?



Question 15 - If you have not taken the above actions, why not?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I did not transport the boat to another body of water.	67.6%	23
I did not have the time.	5.9%	2
My actions will not make a difference.	0.0%	0
I did not know I had to.	26.5%	9
I was not in waters which had invasive species.	8.8%	3
I was physically unable.	5.9%	2
It was too dark to see.	5.9%	2
The boat landing was too crowded and/or busy.	5.9%	2
Other (please specify)		11
answered question		34
skipped question		41

Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
1	Oct 7, 2015 6:34 PM	I mostly kayak. No drain plug. Hard to totally empty. Not always 5 days between outings.
2	Oct 1, 2015 3:31 PM	What you do not realize is that many boats or canoes do not have drain plugs or bilge pumps. None of my duck boats or canoes have either. Furthermore, all water cannot be removed by bailing. Finally, most of the time the water in my duck boat is frozen on my late season hunts. Unless you plan on providing an electric generator and heat gun at all wetland accesses you are never going to get all of the water and frozen on weed fragments off boats or decoys, etc.
3	Sep 30, 2015 7:42 PM	Never bring unused bait off at the launch (I just never have any on board)
4	Sep 30, 2015 1:29 PM	Stay on lake until season is over and the service dealer takes it out and brings it back in spring Pontoon on lift all summer.
5	Sep 28, 2015 8:27 PM	I always properly clean and drain my watercraft but there have been times that I've went to multiple lakes in one weekend, not waiting the five days.
6	Sep 23, 2015 7:01 PM	using bait and boat following days after use in other body of water
7	Sep 18, 2015 7:43 PM	I take all bait not used home with me.
8	Sep 18, 2015 1:53 PM	There are no garbage cans at the boat landing
9	Sep 18, 2015 7:55 AM	I use a canoe or kayak.
10	Sep 16, 2015 4:24 PM	I own a pontoon, no drain plug
11	Sep 16, 2015 3:28 PM	Use a pontoon for pleasure only.

Question 16 - Do you have other comments or suggestions about ways to prevent aquatic invasive species in Blue Earth County?

Number	Idea
1	I think its all about education and understanding
2	More signs at landings
3	Increase fines
4	It's just a matter of time. Eventually AIS will spread throughout MN.
5	Have farmers filter their water drainage from their lands before it exits into ditches and travels to lakes and rivers
6	possible chemicals
7	we must stop the spread of invasive species, we are shi----- in our mess kit
8	As mentioned before, I believe the State can provide the most effective way to prevent AIS through required training sessions in order to relicense a watercraft and also through increased fines.
9	contract companied who will remove aquatic species form the lake
10	MN DNR needs a better method for treatment beyond their grant program. DNR employees should do the treating. Currently treatment is up to the landowners/lake associaton to get done.
11	Put garbage cans by boat landings and work with area officials to clean them out.
12	Active education and enforcement where necessary; educate at the first offense, enforce at second, data base required for this accessible by state and local officials
13	Hire inspector who can coordinate volunteer inspectors
14	County / DNR representatives could come to Lakes Organization events or area fishing tournaments
15	Billboards
16	Continue to work with lake associations--peer pressure works.
17	MNDNR needs to get real. We would be better off saving the money and spending it on reducing nutrients. They have this pot of money from the Legacy Amendment and it has distorted their reality.
18	Filter the inlet tiles that allow watershed to enter the lake (to much fertilizer and chemical seems to promote the growth of the invasive weeds and algae
19	I'd also like to see more of a presence by the MN DNR and county staff at the boat launches. I rarely see staff enforcing these regulations.
20	forward county AIS money to local lake associations to implement plan in accordance with the needs of their lake
21	work with DNR and land owners to eradicate and eliminate "all" AIS perhaps with cost sharing on elimination of AIS. Most often it is up to land owner to pay for herbicides which control and eliminate. DNR will not share in cost and, from experience allow only half of what landowner requests.
22	Use funds to supplement invasive weed spraying
23	Enforcement
24	Increase funding at county level.
25	Have we been able to prevent the reintroduction of carp or bullheads when we have done lake reclamations? NO! Why would aquatic plant material be any different? If nothing else there will always be individual vandals who are vindictive or think it is funny to intentionally sabotage an invasive free water body.
26	Restore lowlands that typically drain into lakes back to native vegetation as a filtering process
27	Deal with carp