Watercraft data-sharing options for the Great Lakes

Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species Fall Meeting
November 15, 2023

Project Review

- A GLRI funded interjurisdictional project managed by the Great Lakes Commission with a project advisory team

- **Goal:** Identify what options exist for sharing data about watercraft inspections across jurisdictions and the benefits and barriers to doing so.

What have we done so far?

✓ Inventoried Great Lakes jurisdictions and their current watercraft data collecting process.

Objective 1. Inventory existing data systems

- Created a set of 6 survey questions to ask each Jurisdiction about their current watercraft data collection program,

- Survey sent to 16 Great Lakes Jurisdictions (U.S only)
  - 14 responses
  - 3 jurisdictions were unable to complete the survey due to not having a data collection program
  - 11 completed surveys

Does your jurisdiction have an electronic data collection system?

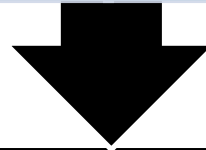| No, data is collected via paper datasheets (N = 5) | Yes (N = 6) |

What system do you use?

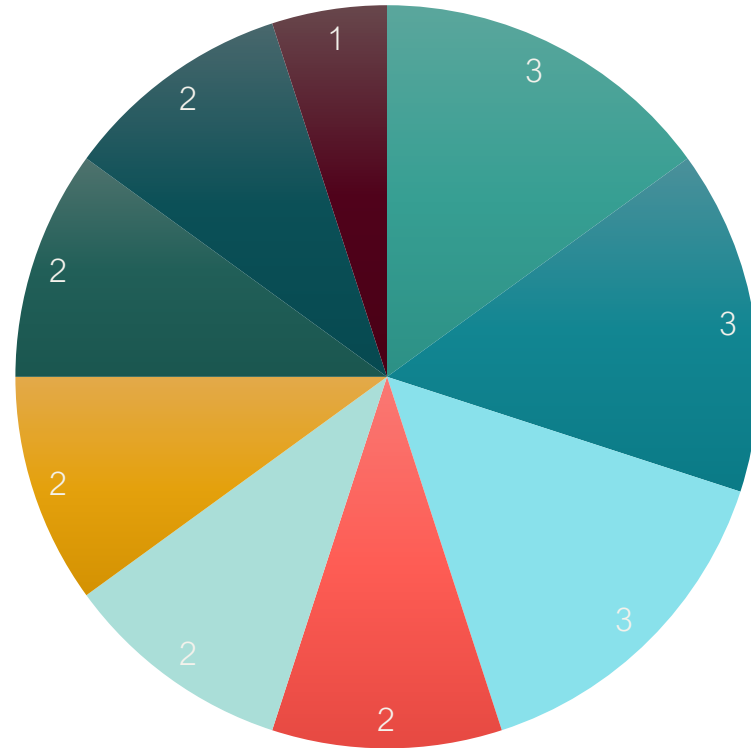| Survey 123 (N = 3) | isurvey/ HarvestYourData (N = 2) | Surface Water Intergrated Monitoring System (N = 1) |

How is your data primarily collected in the field?

| Tablets/ iPads / smartphones (N = 5) | Paper data sheets then entered into database (N = 1) |

"How do you use the watercraft data collected?"
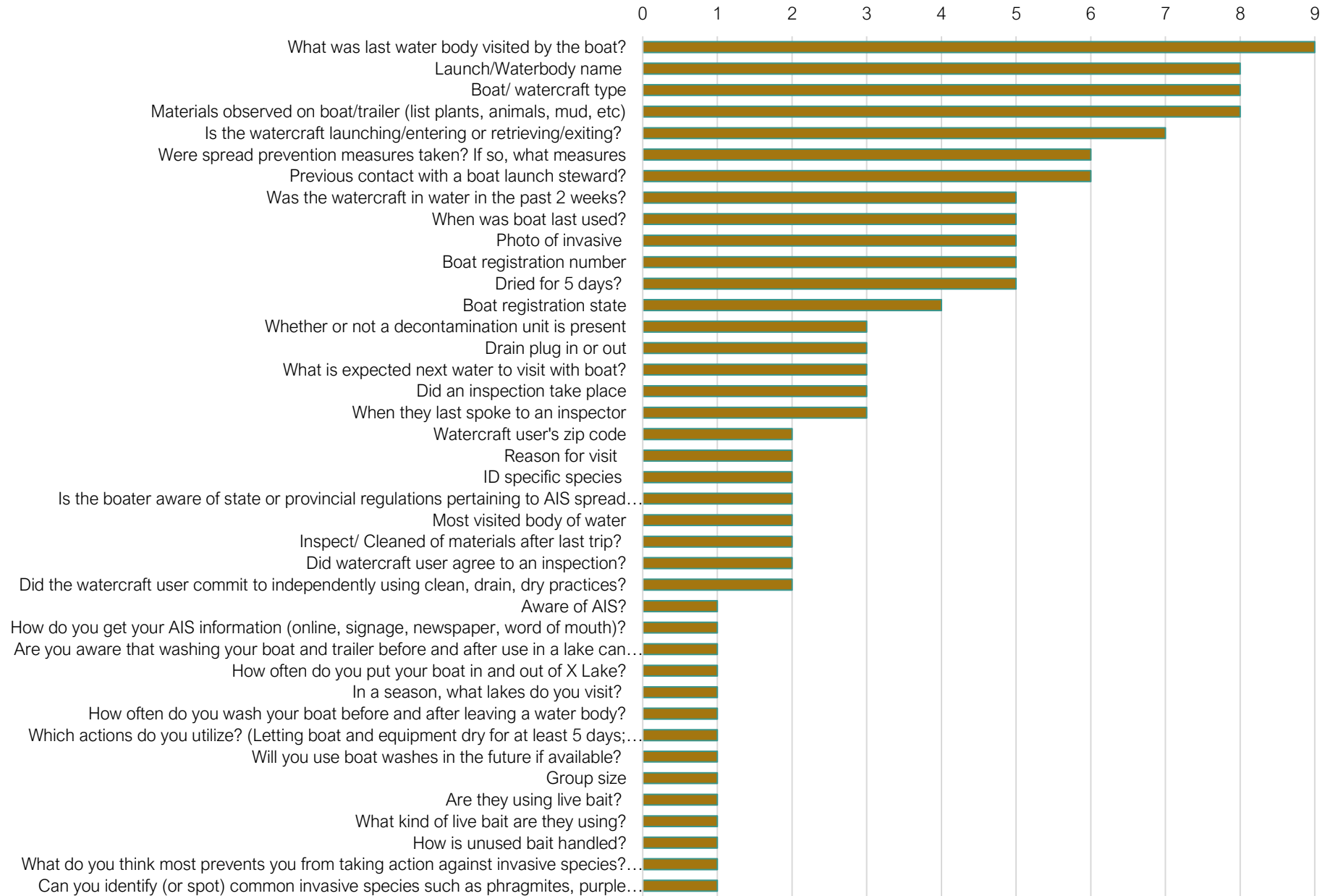
Legend:
- Support boater outreach
- Track boater movement
- Support grant reporting
- Track change in boater behavior over time
- Inform/ prioritize survey locations
- Data given to inspection partners for their own analyses

Data Collection Fields

What have we done so far?

- ✓ Inventoried Great Lakes jurisdictions and their current watercraft data collecting process.

- ✓ Hosted a virtual data sharing workshop in June

Objective 2. Host Data-sharing workshop

- Two-day workshop in June 2023

- First half consisted of jurisdiction sharing short presentations on their current watercraft data collection program

- Presentation from the Western' basin's Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination (WID) Data Sharing System

- Discussion on watercraft data collection goals, interest in data-sharing, potential barriers to data-sharing

What have we done so far?

- ✓ Inventoried Great Lakes jurisdictions and their current watercraft data collecting process.

- ✓ Hosted a virtual data sharing workshop in June

- ✓ Hosted a follow-up workshop to discuss potential data-sharing options

Objective 3. Present options for data sharing processes and platforms

- Workshop held November 2nd

- Presented three different data-sharing options that could be utilized in the Great Lakes
  - Written annual report
  - Utilize a shared ESRI dashboard
  - Create an app similar to the WID system (or join WID)

- Produced a "next step" pilot option
  - Collect 2023 watercraft data from each GL jurisdiction and create a summary

What is left to complete ?

- A final report on data sharing options documenting feasibility from a state and tribal perspective

- A pilot "annual summary report" of watercraft data collection in the Great Lakes

Questions?

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