

Working with wardens to focus AIS efforts

Christal Campbell UWEX/WisDNR
Lakes Convention 2013



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

DNR Warden Team Events

Background

- ▶ Organized group effort focused around local AIS education and enforcement
- ▶ Required participation by all DNR warden teams (minimum 8 hours)
- ▶ First year, 2012



AIS Warden Team Event Goals

- ▶ Continue to solidify the enforcement role of warden service
- ▶ Identify techniques to better manage AIS issues in warden patrol areas
- ▶ Educate the public about AIS
- ▶ Spin-off and Residual enforcement of AIS laws. (Increase the comfort level with wardens)



Statewide Review of 2012 AIS Team Events

- ▶ All DNR Wardens involved in AIS Team Event (1 day)
- ▶ 100's of boat/angler contacts
- ▶ 20 highway enforcement stops made for transporting AIS
- ▶ 36 warnings for AIS violations
- ▶ 7 AIS related arrests made



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

What did we learn?

- Wardens saw this work as important and engaging. *"This is absolutely a worthwhile effort. The public wants us to be doing this effort and it truly helps protect the resource. People are very receptive to the increased enforcement presence and actually welcome it."*
- **Wardens** immediately started making other AIS enforcement cases following participation in the Warden Team Events.



Plans for 2013

- ▶ Each warden team to participate in an AIS focused team event .
- ▶ Continue to transition from AIS education to enforcement.
- ▶ Better coordination with state and local AIS partners.



Wisconsin's Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership

Bringing together
state and local government,
non-profit groups, and private partners
to protect Wisconsin waters.



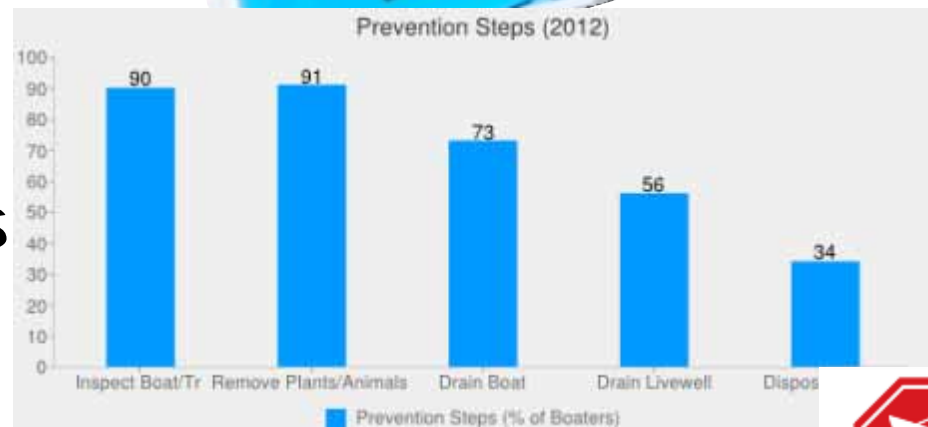
**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

AIS Warden Toolkits

- ▶ AIS Contacts (county)
- ▶ Local AIS compliance awareness data
- ▶ List of local waters with AIS
- ▶ List of local active CBCW partners
- ▶ Information on statewide campaigns (Draining Event, Bait Shop Project, Landing Blitz, etc.)



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Questions?

Christal Campbell

DNR/UW Extension AIS Education Specialist

Christal.Campbell@Wisconsin.gov

(608) 266-0061



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**