

Rapid response actions following the discovery of round gobies in Little Lake Butte des Morts



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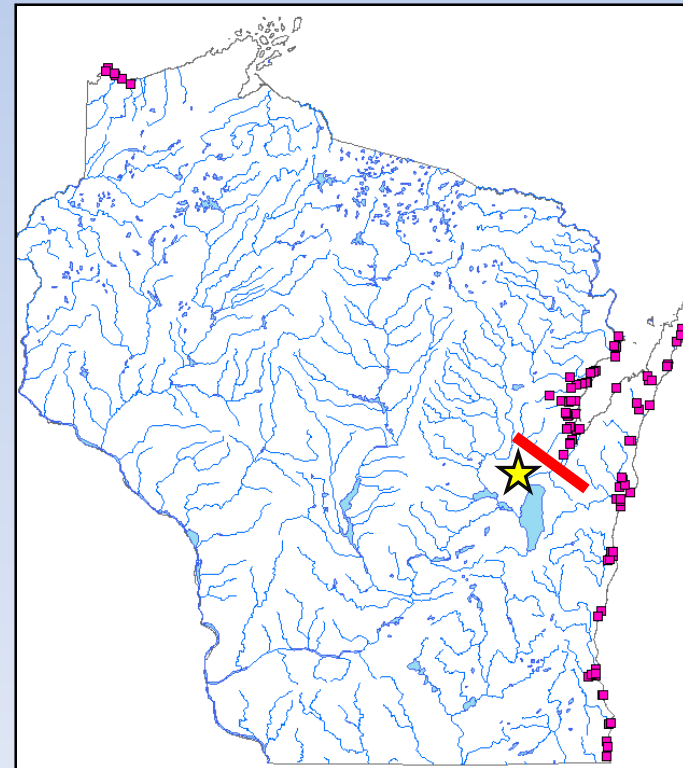
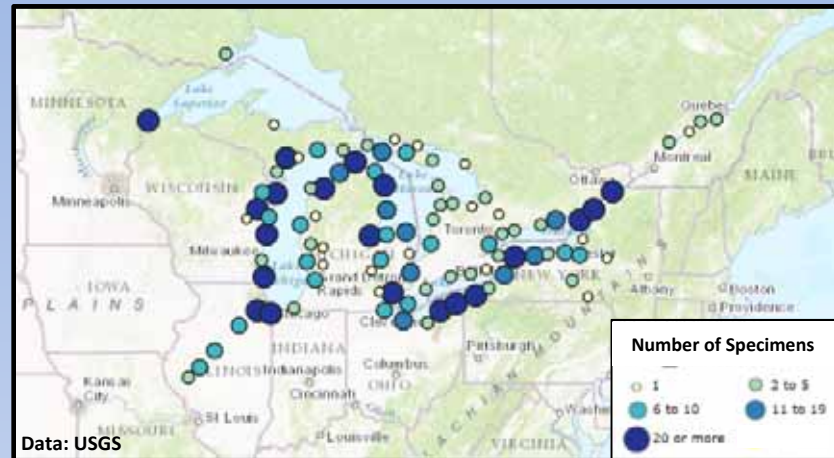
Round Goby Impacts

- Aggressive territorial fish with a voracious appetite
- Eats the eggs and young of native fish
- Influences spawning of other fish species
- Alters the food web
- Can reproduce up to 6x in a season
- 'Bait-stealing' nuisance

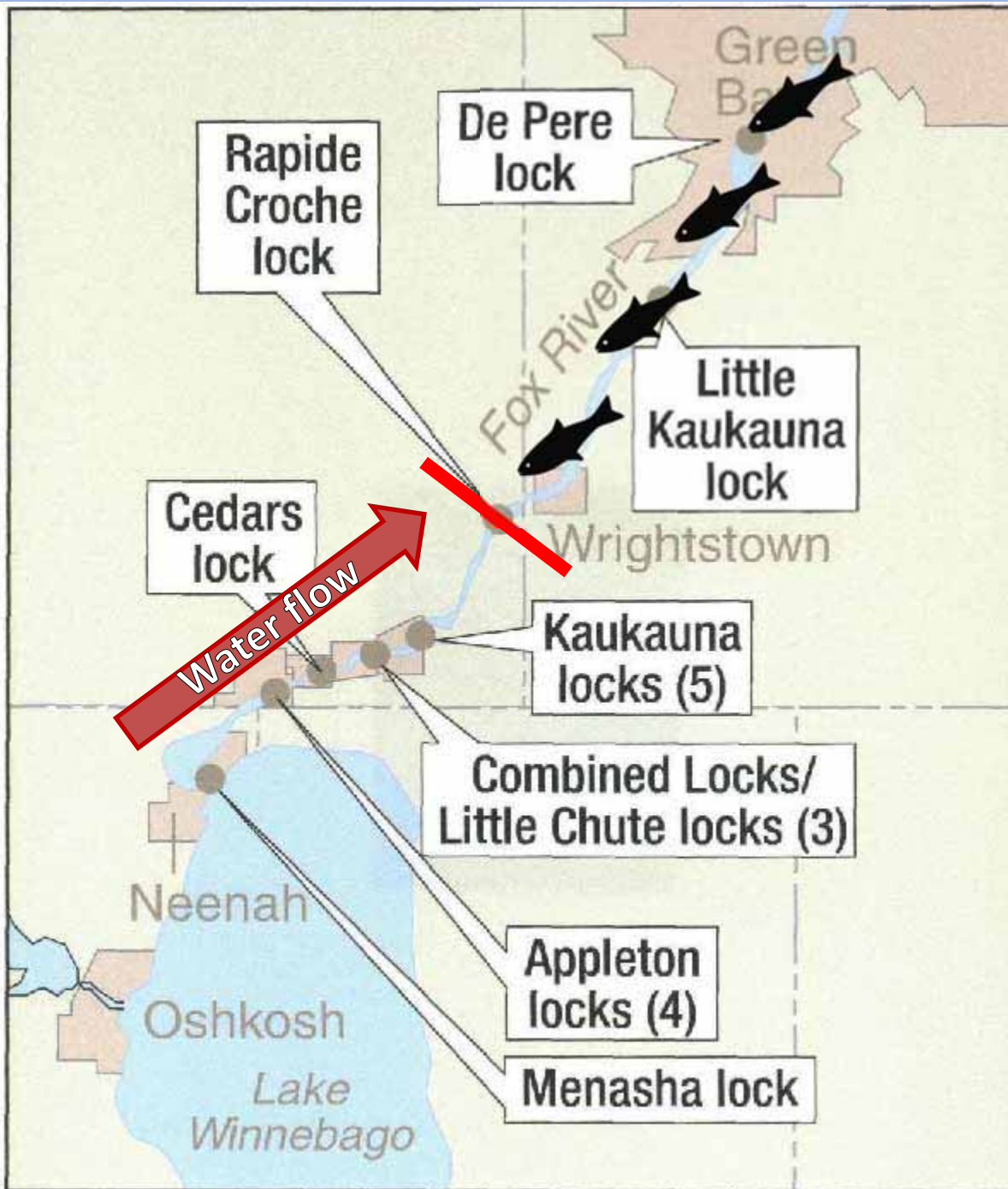


Round Goby Invasion History

- First observed in the St. Clair River and Lake Huron in 1990, and by 1995 was found in all the Great Lakes.
- Until recently, believed to only have spread to inland rivers up to the first impassable barrier.
- In the Fox River only found downstream of the Rapid Croche dam.
- In August 2015, an angler reported catching a goby immediately below the Neenah Dam in Little Lake Butte des Morts.



Source: Kornis & Mercado-Silva, April 2011. Fishes of Wisconsin.



- Rapid Croche Lock operated from 1850's until 1988.
- During the 1970's and 1980's, the sea lamprey and other AIS began to establish in the Great Lakes.
- Rapid Croche Lock was closed and a solid barrier placed and maintained at the lock site.
- Goby reported upstream of Rapid Croche in August 2015.



Dam and Channel Layout

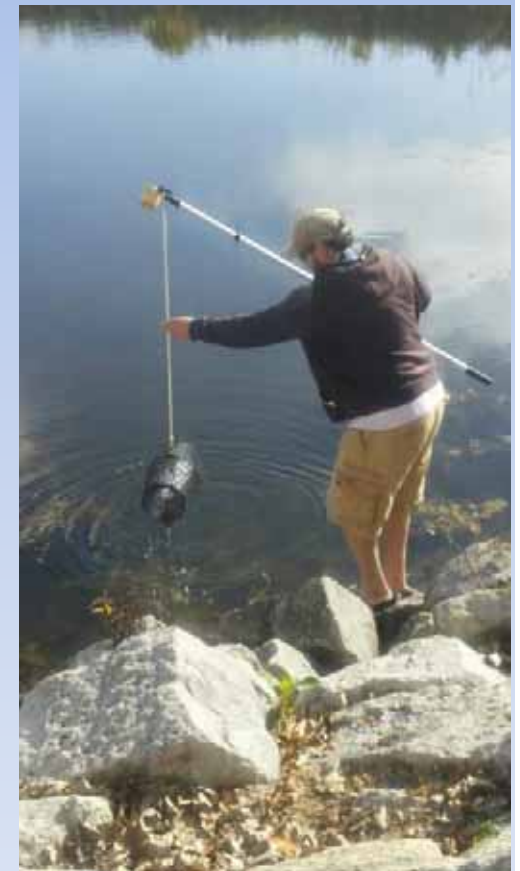


Education and Outreach

- Worked in collaboration with FRNSA to close Menasha lock.
- Round goby 'watch' signs posted at public access sites and various bait shops in the area.
- Outreach to hundreds of individual anglers.
- High level of traditional and social media coverage.
- WDNR staff follow-up on all angler submitted calls and reports.



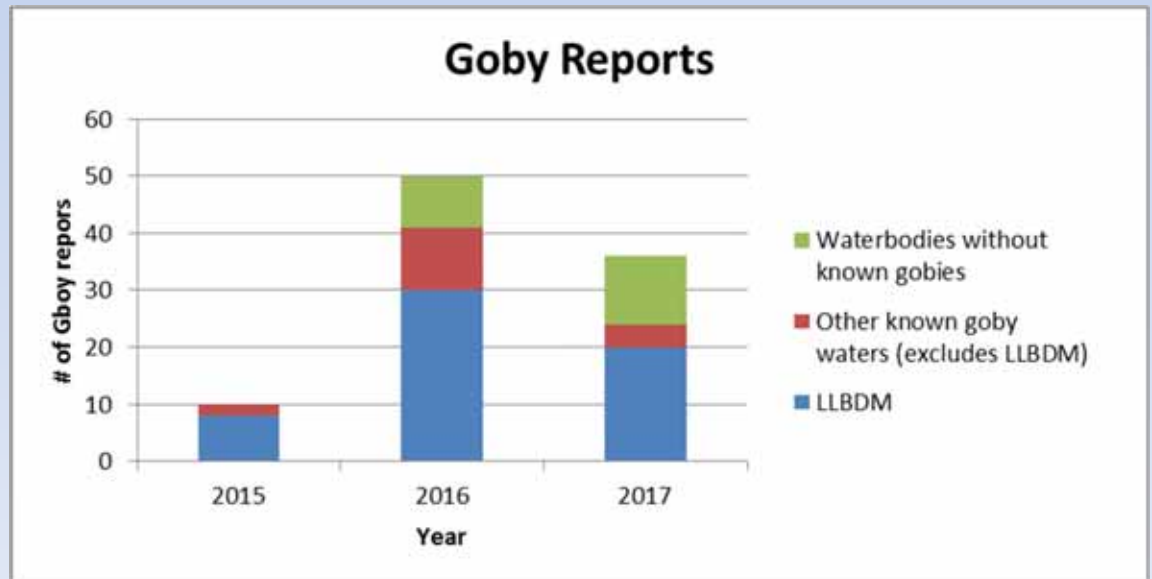
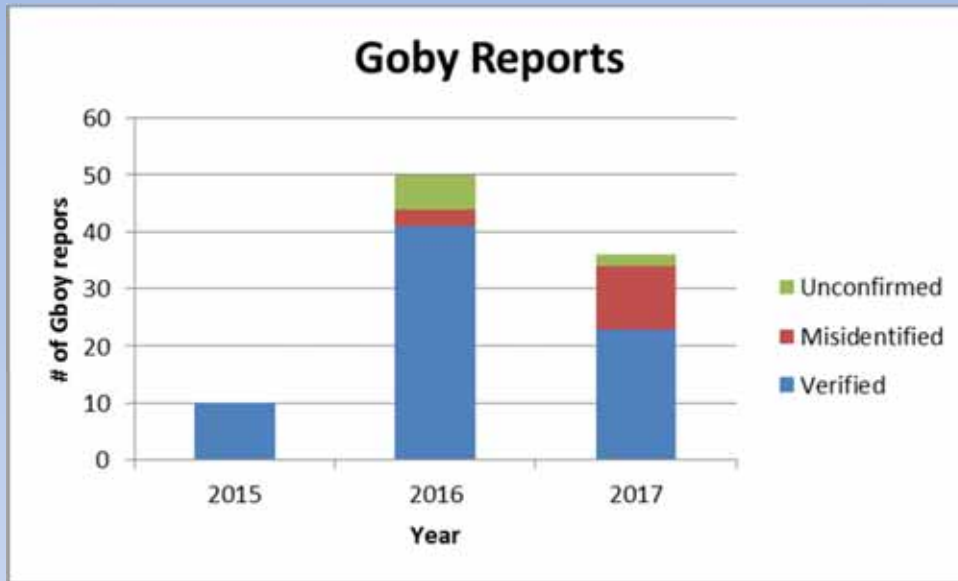
Round Goby Trapping Locations



Round Goby Angler Reports

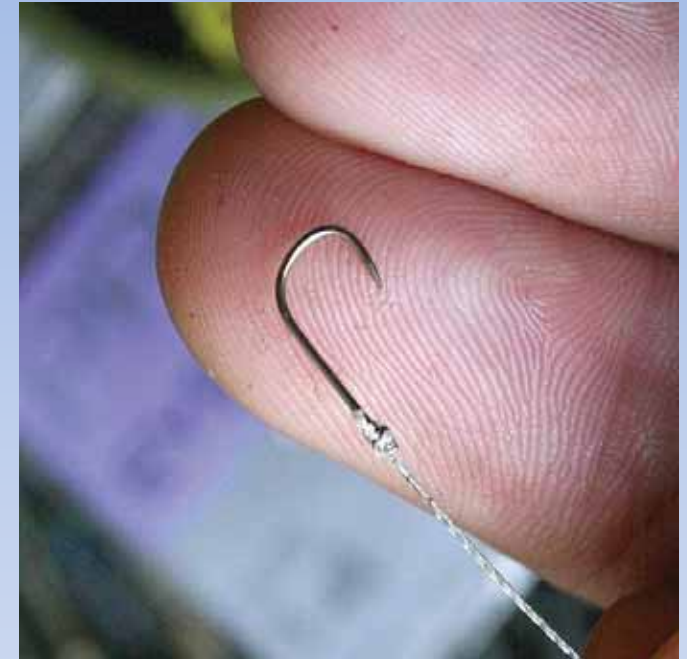


Round Goby Angler Reports



UW-Oshkosh CBCW Angling

- UW-Oshkosh Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) interns conducted angling for gobies in between interactions with boaters
- Provided goby 'wallet card' to all boaters with information on goby identification and what to do if they catch one
- Angling used standardized gear (size #14 hooks, Berkley Gulp! maggots, etc.)
- No gobies caught – data entered in SWIMS



Education and Outreach (cont.)

- Don't use/transport round goby signs posted at shore access sites in multiple languages.
- Education and outreach push during sturgeon season and other area fishing tournaments.



Winter Activities

- Education and outreach push during sturgeon season and other area fishing tournaments (i.e. Party on Poygan, Battle on Bago, etc.)
- Sturgeon stomach analysis for presence of gobies – none detected
- Continued planning for 2018 Monitoring, Response, and Outreach activities



FAQ



Round Goby Frequently Asked Questions

How do I identify a round goby?

Round gobies have a black spot on the first dorsal fin and a fused pelvic fin that resembles a suction cup (no native fish in the Great Lakes has a fused pelvic fin). Juvenile gobies are a solid slate gray. Gobies are usually 7-15 cm long, but a few have been found up to 25 cm long. The **fused pelvic fin** is one of the easiest ways to identify a round goby and differentiate it from similar-looking native species including the mottled sculpin and log perch.



Photo Credit: Paul Skawinski

Native Look-alikes



Log Perch



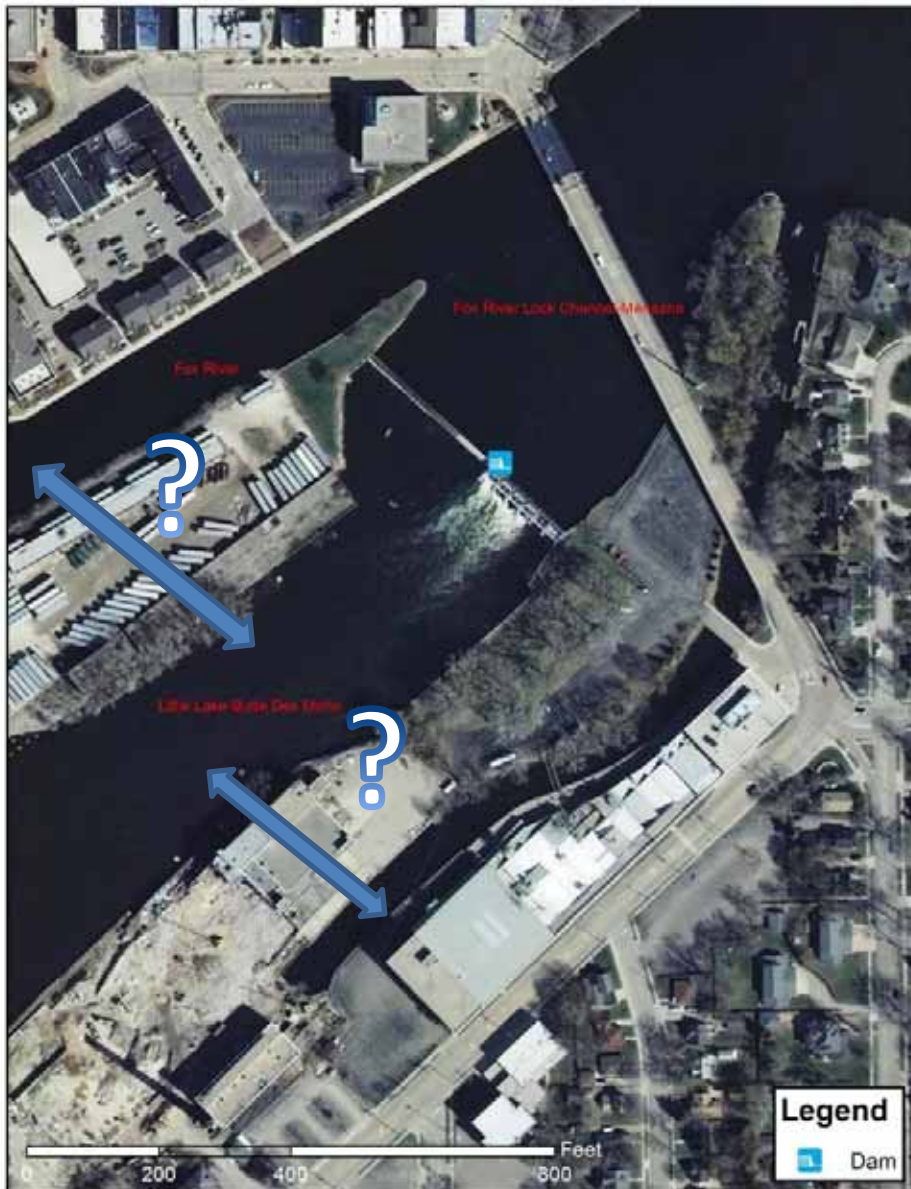
Mottled Sculpin

Solan Lyons



fused pelvic fins round goby
mottled sculpin
separate pelvic fins John Lyman

Cross-connections?



Lawson Channel



Lawson Channel



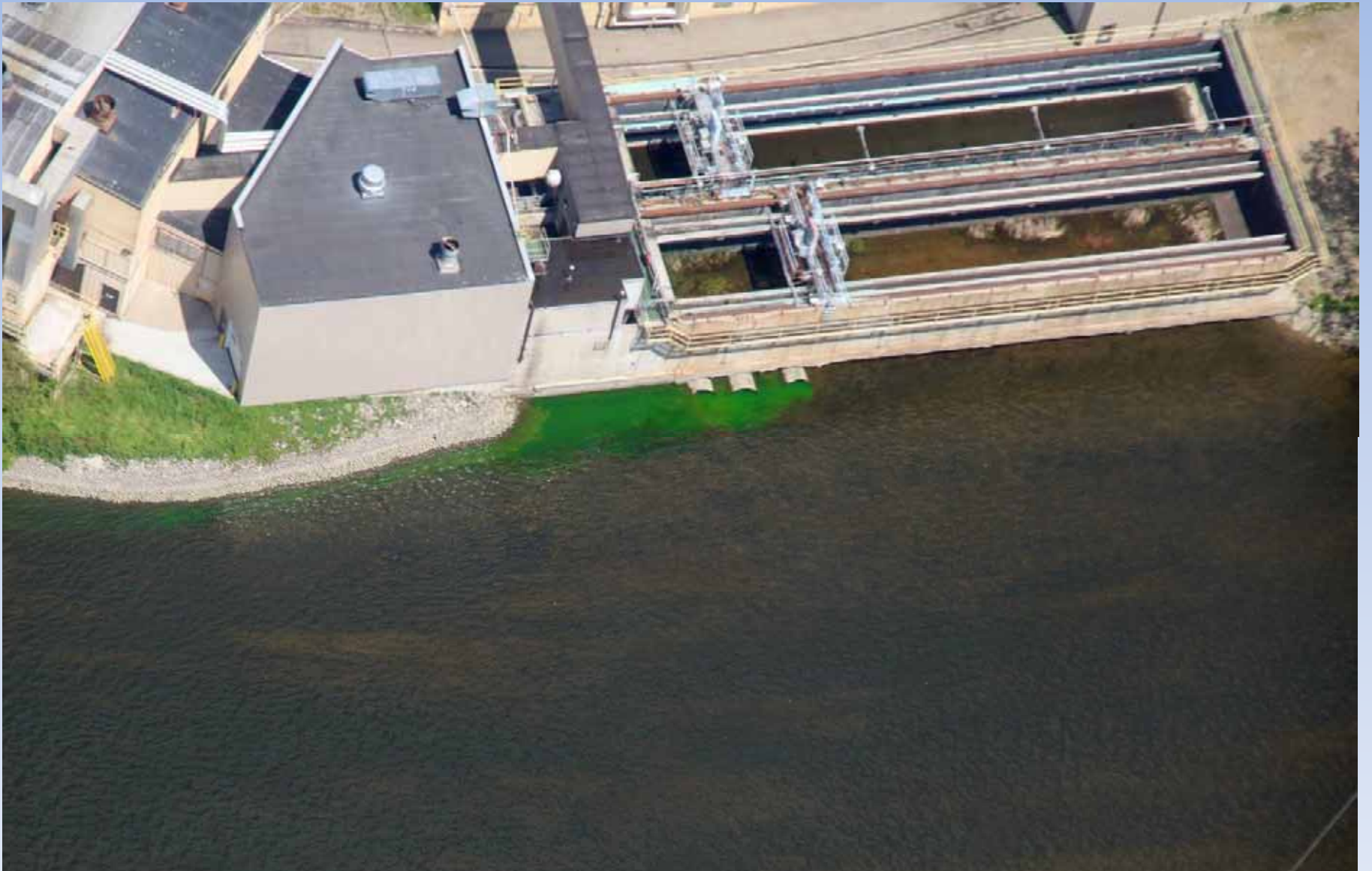
Menasha Channel



Menasha Channel

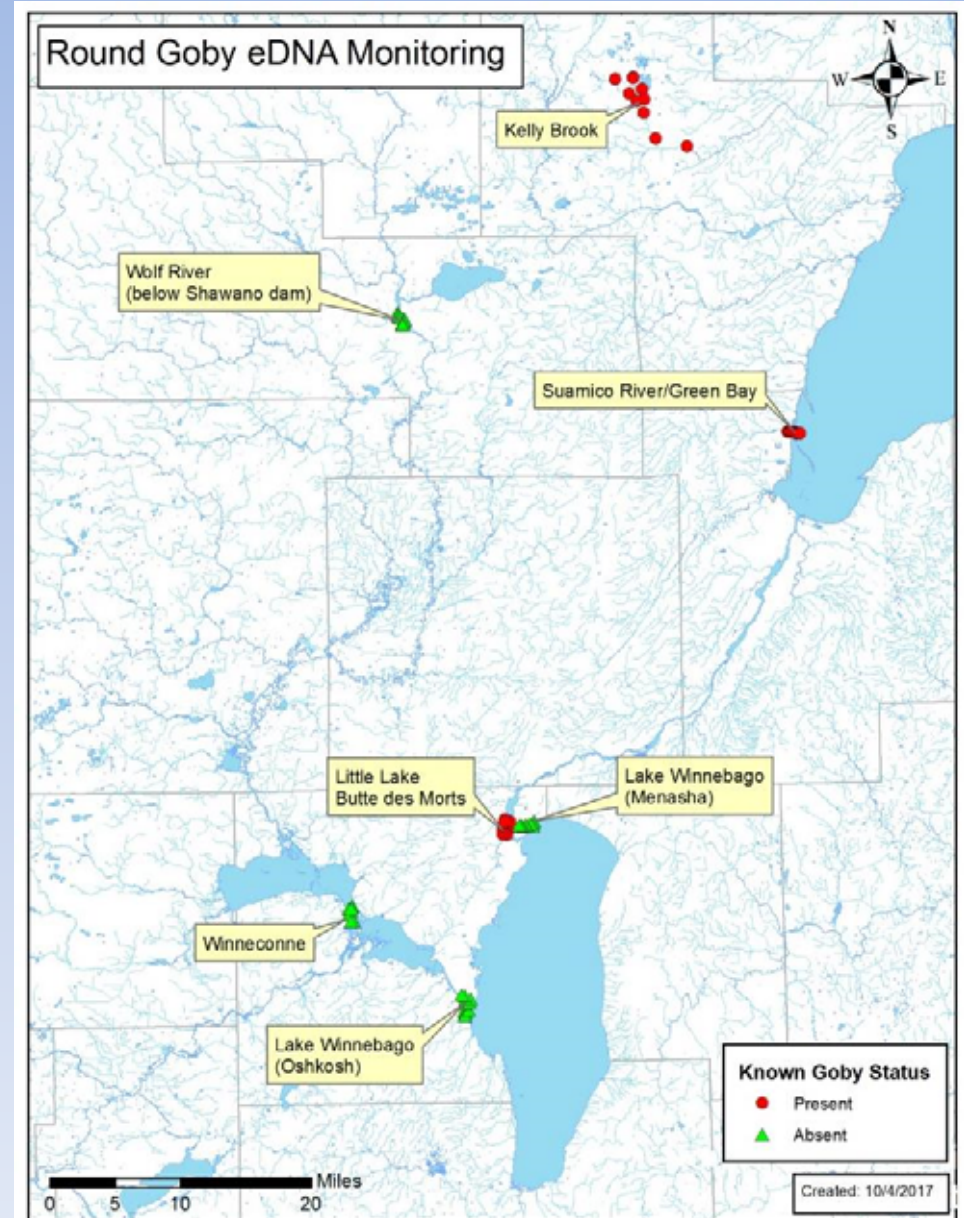


Menasha Channel



eDNA

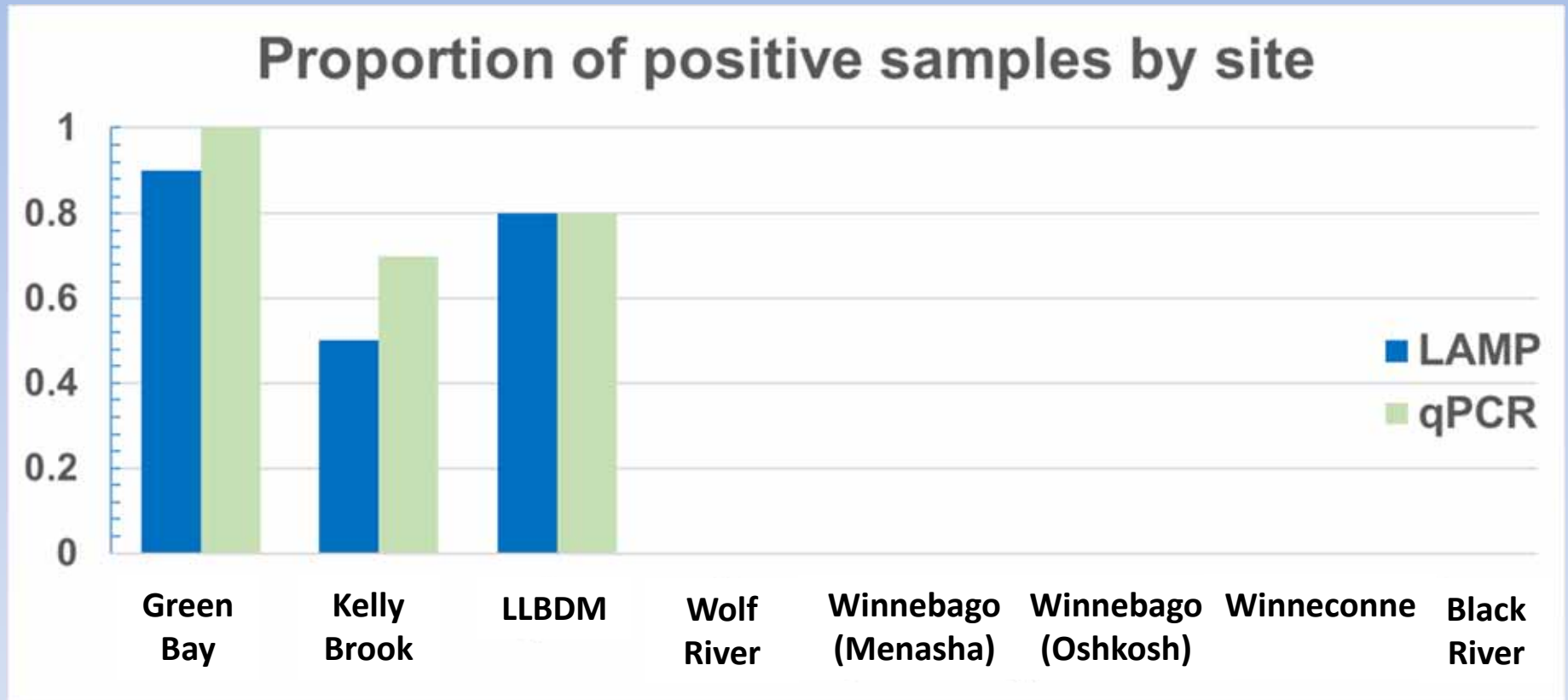
- **1 site high abundance**
 - **Green Bay / Suamico River**
- **2 sites low-moderate abundance**
 - **Kelly Brook + connected waters**
 - **Little Lake Butte des Morts**
- **4 sites undetermined presence**
 - **Wolf River @ Shawano Dam**
 - **Lake Winnebago @ Menasha**
 - **Lake Winnebago @ Oshkosh**
 - **Lake Winneconne**
- **1 site round goby absent**
 - **Black River @ LaCrosse**



eDNA



Results



Preliminary results
provided by:

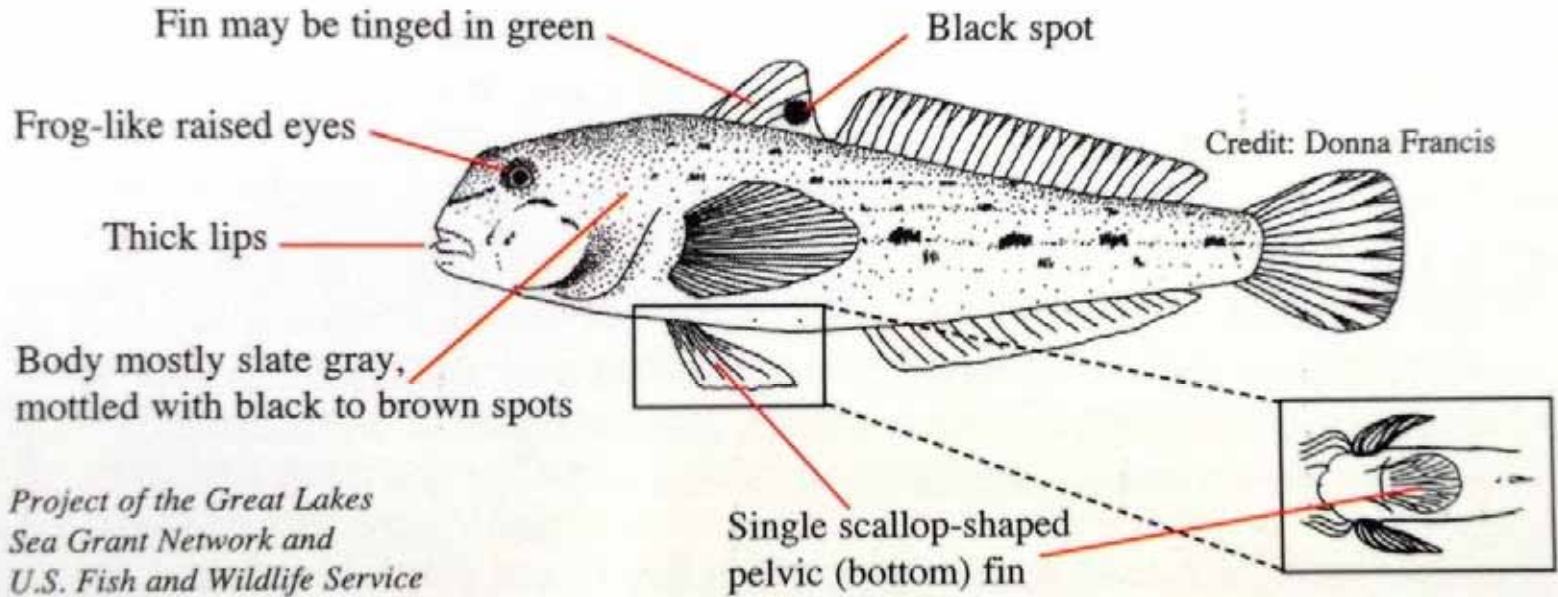


Next Steps

- Continue education, outreach, and encouraging angler reporting through various media outlets and the online goby reporting tool
- Continue to collaboratively conduct presence/absence detection monitoring for round gobies on Lake Winnebago and Upper Pool Lakes
- Continue exploration of long-term strategies to prevent gobies from entering the Winnebago system or other inland waterbodies
- Continue strengthening relationships between both internal and external partners

What can you do to help?

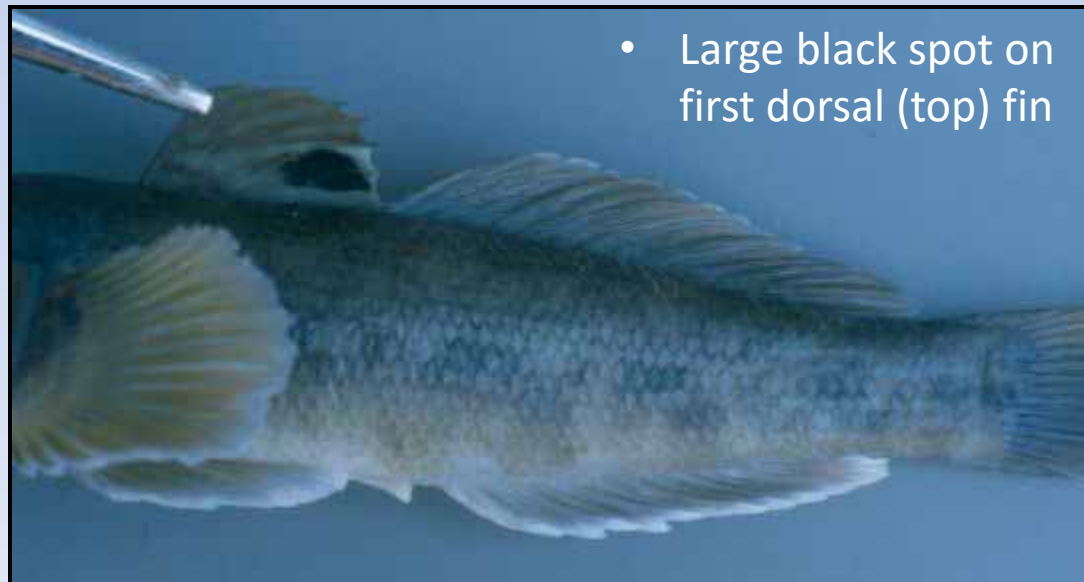
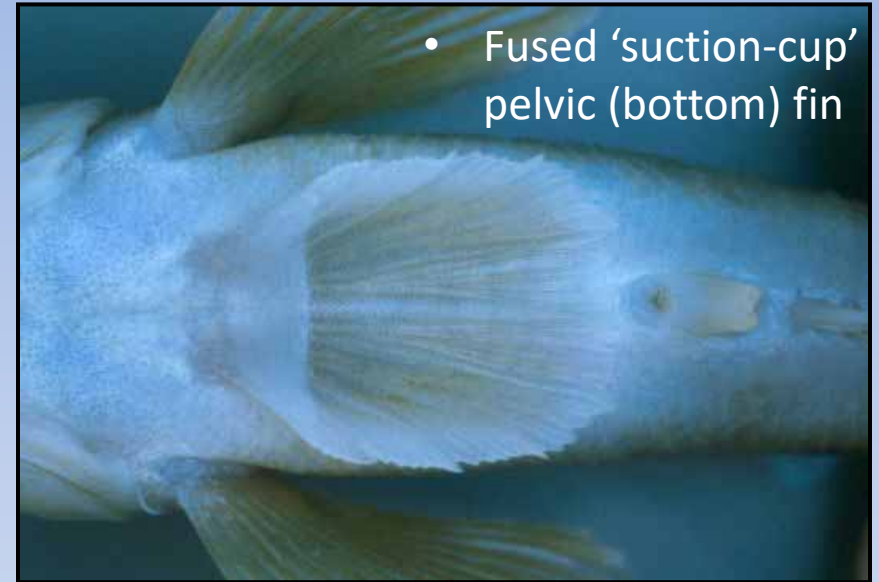
How to Identify a Round Goby (adult shown)



General Characteristics

- No native fish in the Great Lakes has the single pelvic fin
- Young are solid slate gray
- Usually 3-6 inches (7.6 - 15.2 cm) long; may be up to 10 inches (25.4 cm)

How to Identify a Round Goby



Report Sightings to WDNR



<http://dnr.wi.gov/u/?q=132>

WDNR Biologists

Kendall.Kamke@wisconsin.gov

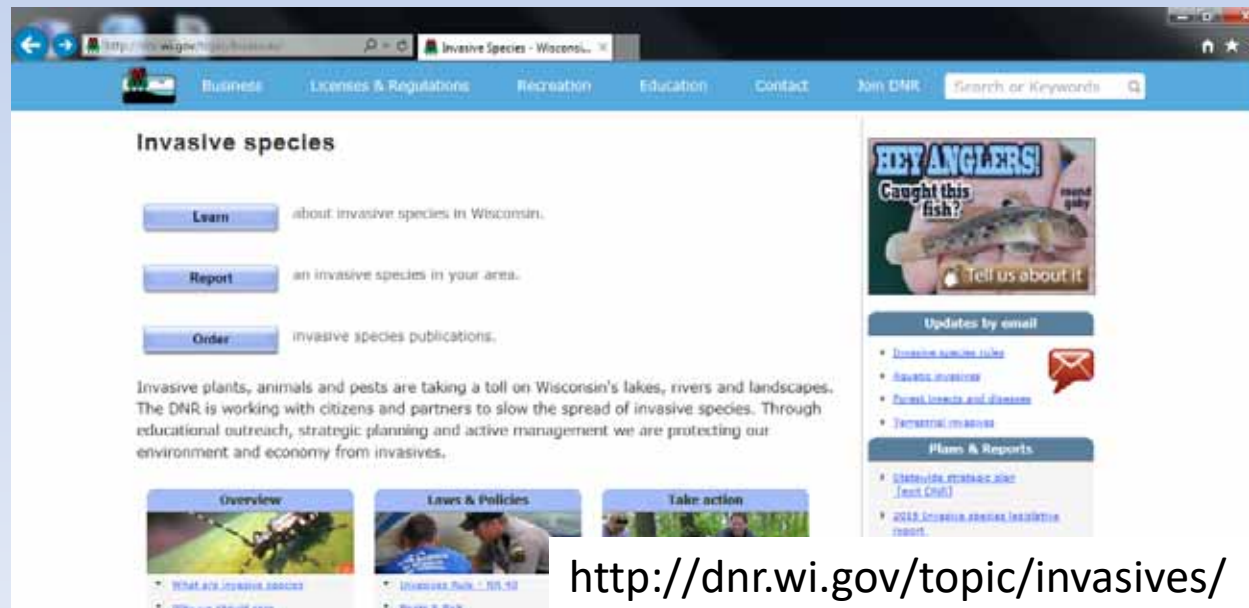
920-424-7880

Adam.Nickel@wisconsin.gov

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920-662-5110



<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/>

Follow the Law!

- Do NOT use round gobies for bait!
- Never move live fish away from a waterbody.
- Empty bait buckets in the trash before going to another location*.
- Buy minnows from a Wisconsin bait dealer.
- Drain all water from boats, livewells, and equipment.

*You may take leftover minnows away from any state water and use them again on that same water. You may use leftover minnows on other waters only if no lake or river water or other fish were added to their container.

**PREVENT THE SPREAD OF
INVASIVE SPECIES
IT'S THE LAW**

PENALTIES MAY EXCEED \$2000

Before launching and before leaving YOU MUST:

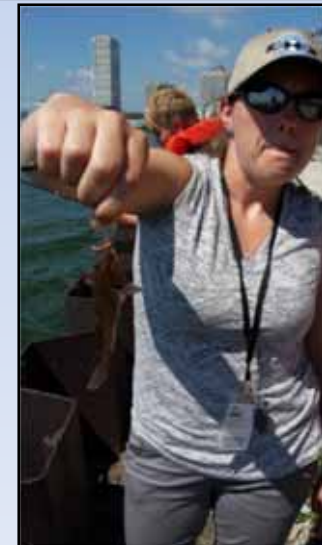
- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.*

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Prevent the spread of invasive species, it's the law

*Limited exceptions apply. Visit WWW.DNR.WI.GOV and search for "BAIT LAWS."

Acknowledgements

- Bob Stark (FRNSA)
- Appleton Yacht Club
- Tim Campbell (UW-Extension)
- Aaron Cupp (USGS)
- Mark Gaikowski (USGS)
- Chris Merkes (USGS)
- Teresa Lewis (USFWS)
- Diane Schauer (Calumet Co.)
- UW-Oshkosh CBCW Interns
- Kendall Kamke (WDNR)
- Adam Nickel (WDNR)
- Ryan Koenigs (WDNR)
- Jean Romback-Bartels (WDNR)
- Bob Wakeman (WDNR)
- Rob McLennan (WDNR)
- Vic Pappas (WDNR)
- Carroll Schaal (WDNR)
- Paul Cunningham (WDNR)
- Justine Hasz (WDNR)
- Steve Hewett (WDNR)
- Bob Hoodie (WDNR)
- Mark Baldock (WDNR)
- Andrew Notbahm (WDNR)
- John Lyons (WDNR)
- Maureen Ferry (WDNR)
- Amanda Perdsock (WDNR)
- Jennifer Filbert (WDNR)
- Dave Boyarski (WDNR)
- Korin Franklin (WDNR)
- Kaci Baillies (WDNR)
- Ryan Motiff (WDNR)
- Josh Turensky (WDNR)
- Amy Kretlow (WDNR)
- Eric Evensen (WDNR)
- Libby Hess (WDNR)
- Tim Plude (WDNR)
- Joshua Wied (WDNR)
- Jeremy Maass (WDNR)
- Rod Lange (WDNR)
- Jennifer Sereno (WDNR)
- Ed Culhane (WDNR)
- Ryan Propson (WDNR)
- Tom Sturdivant (WDNR)
- Chris Shea (WDNR)
- Aimme Crittendon (WDNR)
- Kevin Olson (WDNR)
- Becca Klemme (WDNR)



Questions?



Photo: Paul Skawinski

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