



Trends in Boater Behaviors

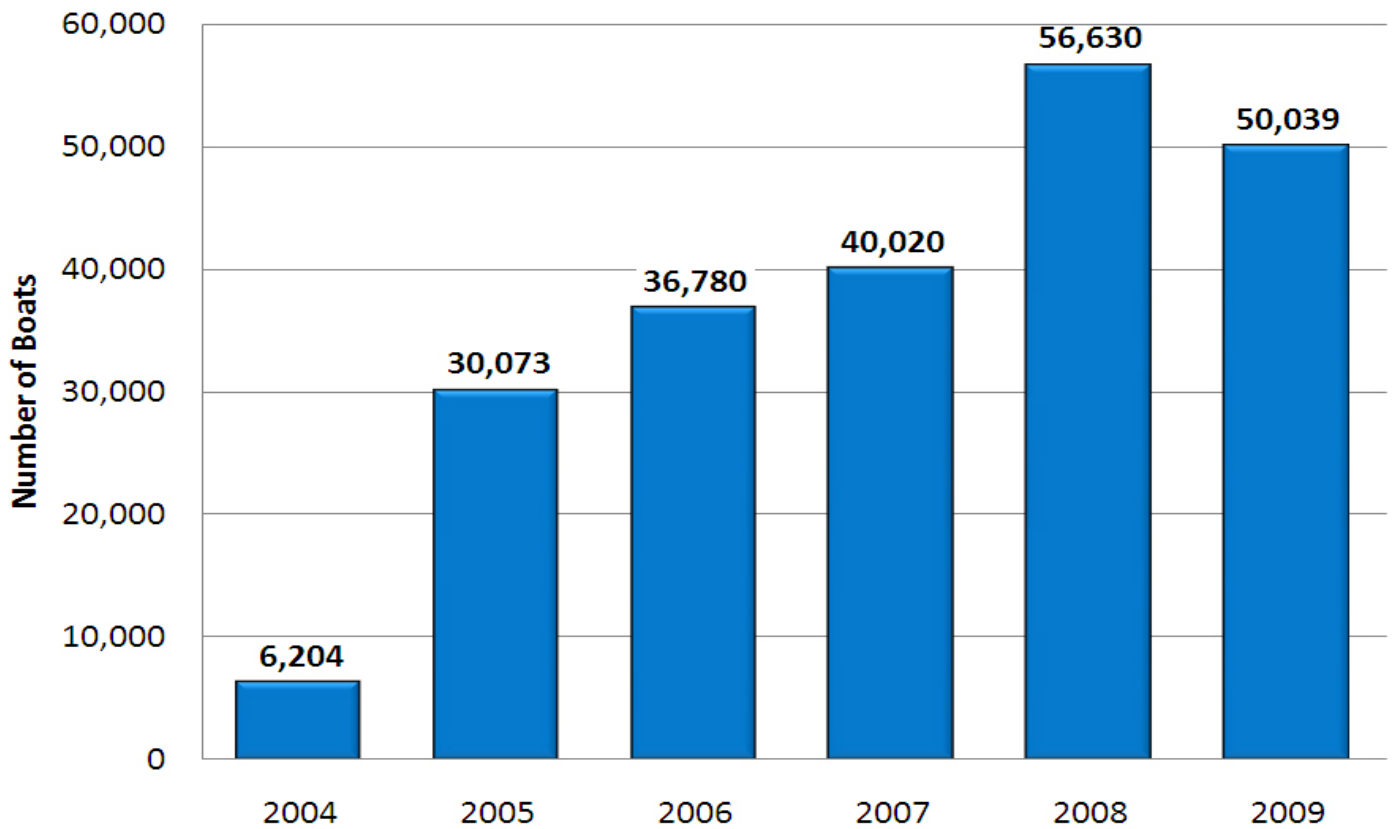
2004-2009 Watercraft Inspection Data

Since 2004, watercraft inspection has been a significant part of Wisconsin's aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention efforts. Research has shown that inspections play an important role in helping contain AIS to already affected waterbodies, preventing the spread of invasive species to new waters. Our effort to concentrate on waters with an AIS presence in 2009 led to an increase in watercraft inspections on Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Winnebago, and other inland waterbodies that have been identified as sources of AIS. This summer, there were numerous landings that had inspectors present for the first time, and many people who had never heard of AIS before learned how to take the proper AIS preventative steps.

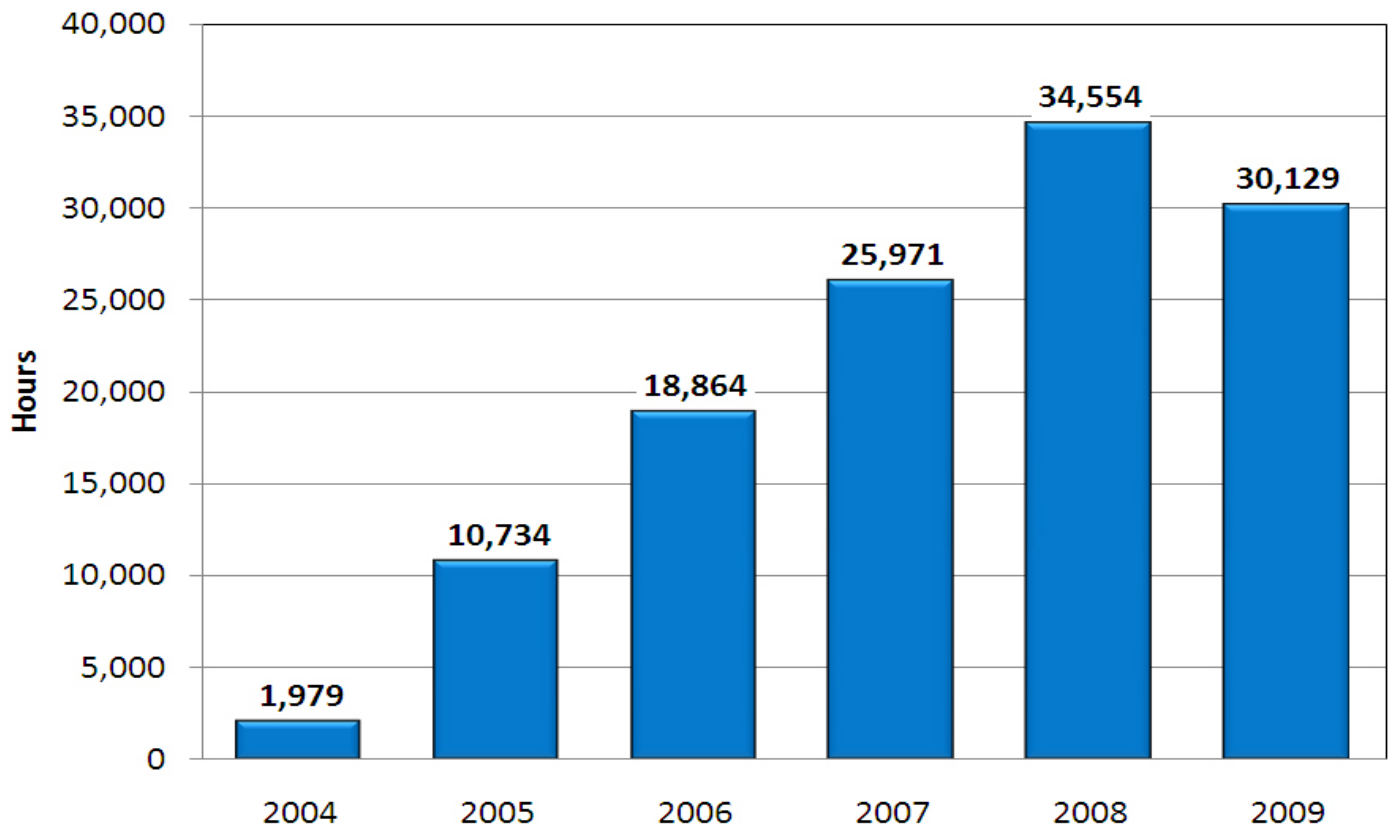
This increase in watercraft inspectors was made possible by a new project and partnership with Workforce Development. Young adults who were unfamiliar with AIS or outreach efforts were given the opportunity to become educators and help protect Wisconsin's lakes by working as inspectors. Many of them gained valuable work experience and insight into their career interests, while lakes with an AIS presence gained some much needed boat inspections. This project helped us gather some significant data on boater behaviors and awareness from AIS source waters. Below are some data totals for 2009 from across the state.

- ◆ 50,039 boats were inspected by volunteers and paid inspectors
- ◆ 108,234 people were contacted about the 'Clean Boats, Clean Waters' message
- ◆ Over 30,128.7 hours were spent conducting watercraft inspections
 - ~ 70% hours by paid inspectors
 - ~ 30% hours by volunteers
- ◆ 15% of all boats inspected had plants attached; Of these, the majority of the boaters (81%) removed the plants as requested.
- ◆ 25% boats had been in another waterbody in the last five days.
- ◆ Boaters and other landing users were asked about whether they took each prevention step after they last used their boat and equipment.
 - 94% said they inspected their boat and equipment for plants and removed any found
 - 90% said they drained all water from their boat and equipment
 - 71% said they disposed of their unused bait
 - 64% said they put their fish on ice to ensure they were not leaving the landing with any live fish
 - 69% said they either washed their boat and equipment with hot or high pressure water OR dried them for five days
- ◆ 90% boaters stated that they were aware of the AIS launch law

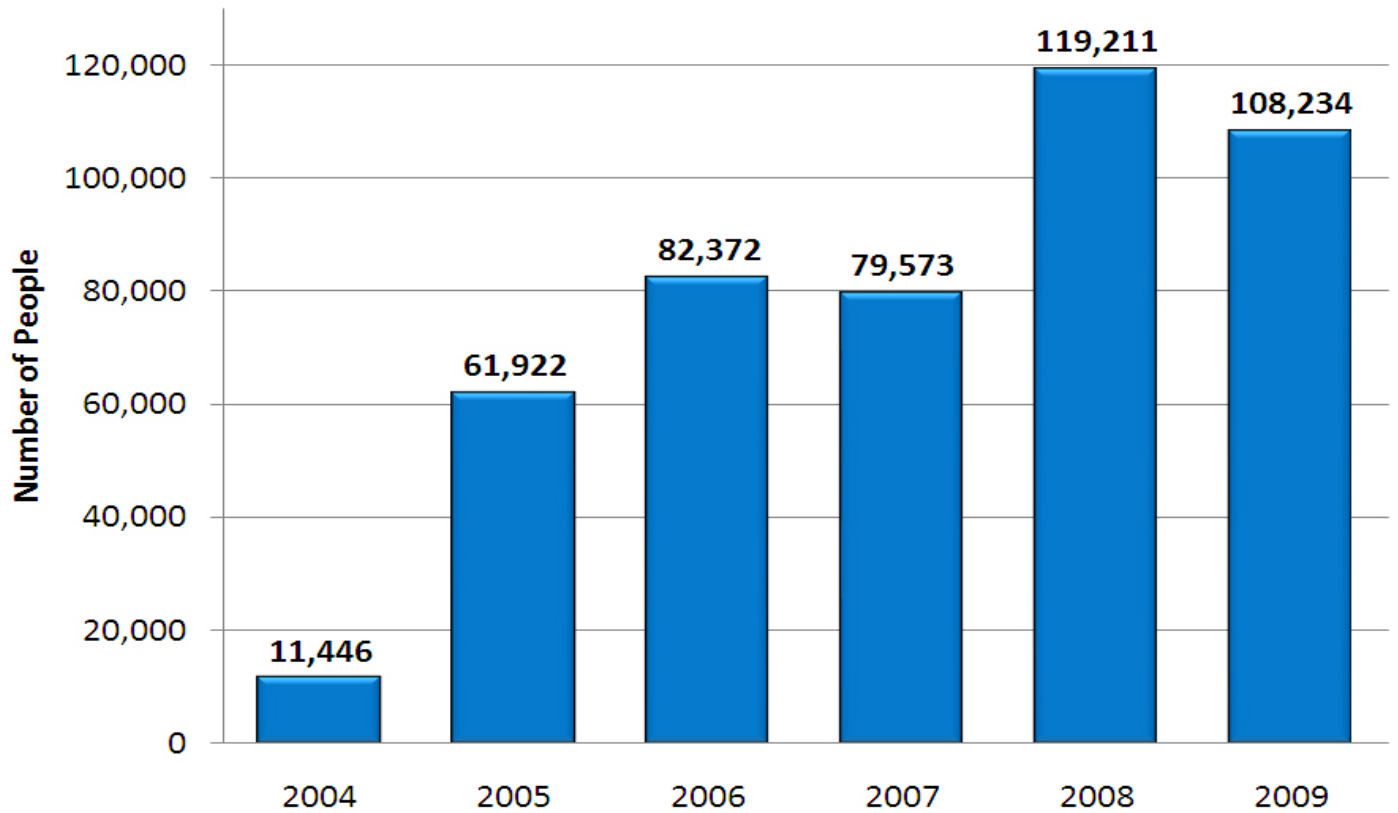
Boats Inspected 2004 - 2009



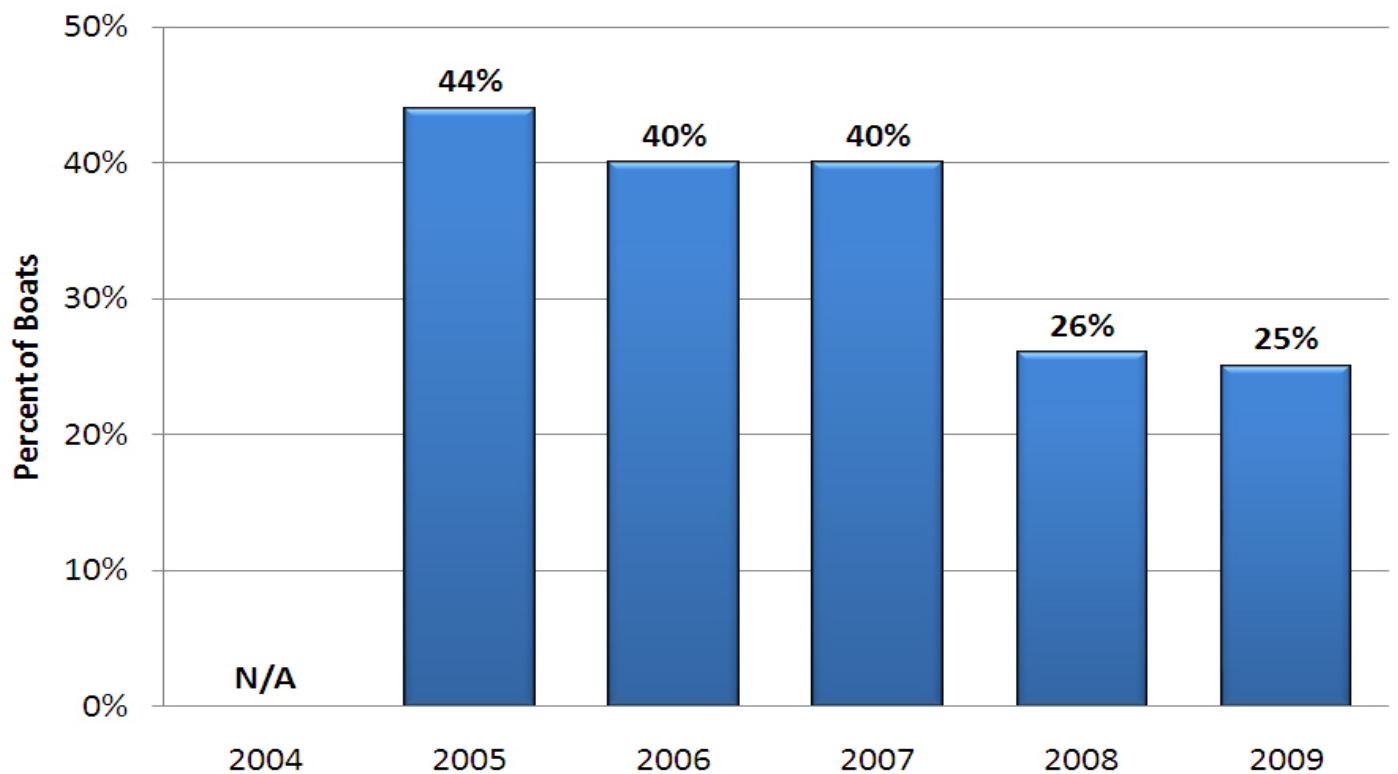
Time Spent on Watercraft Inspections 2004 - 2009



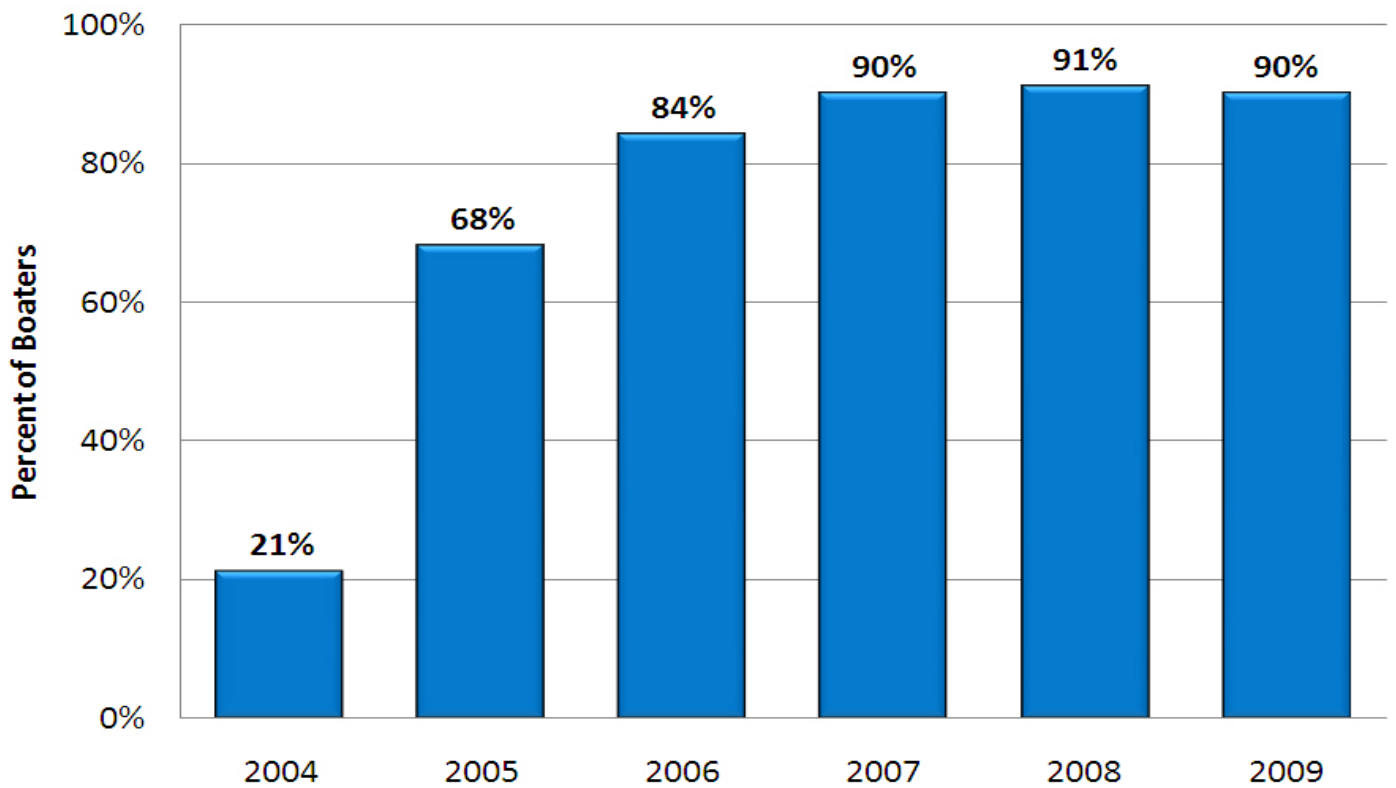
People Contacted During Inspections 2004-2009



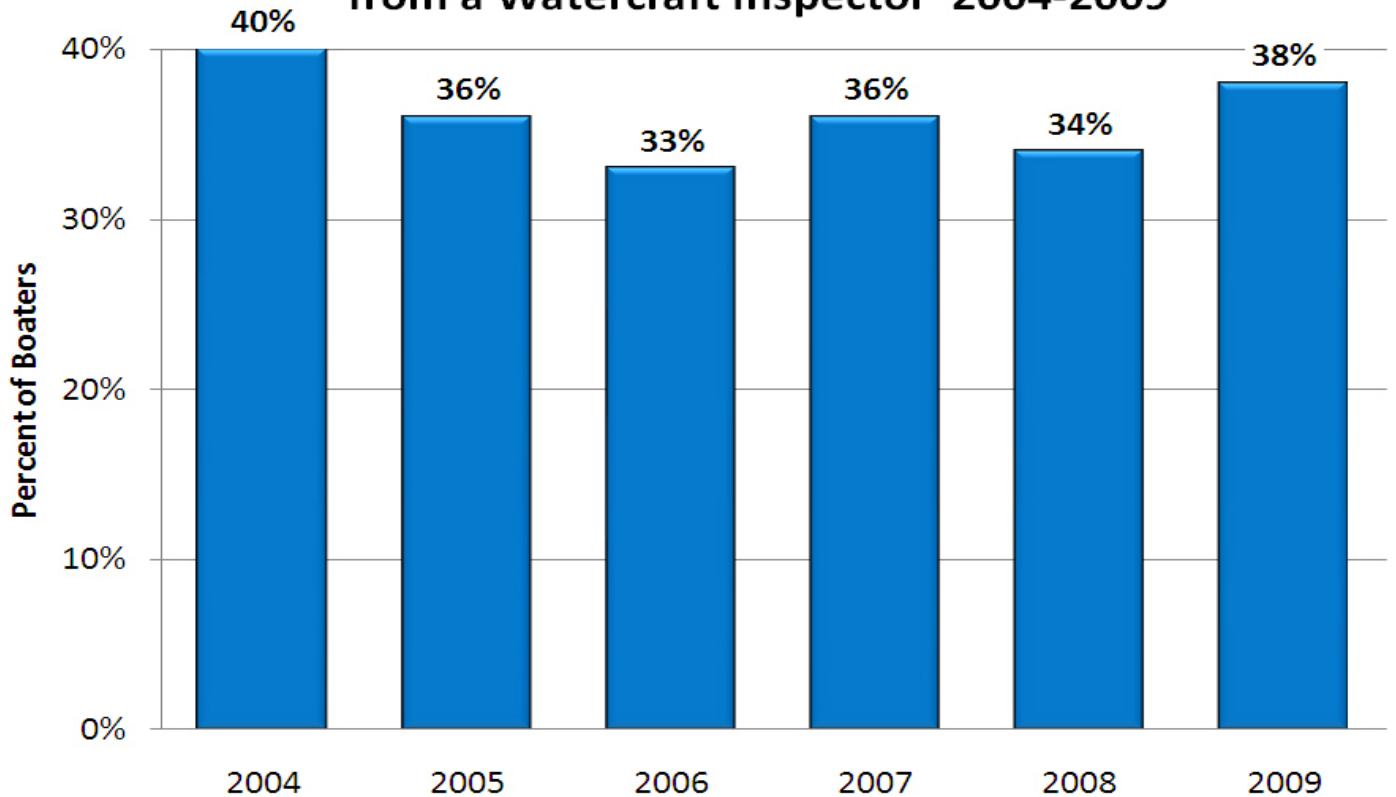
Boats Used on Different Waterbody in Past Five Days 2004-2009



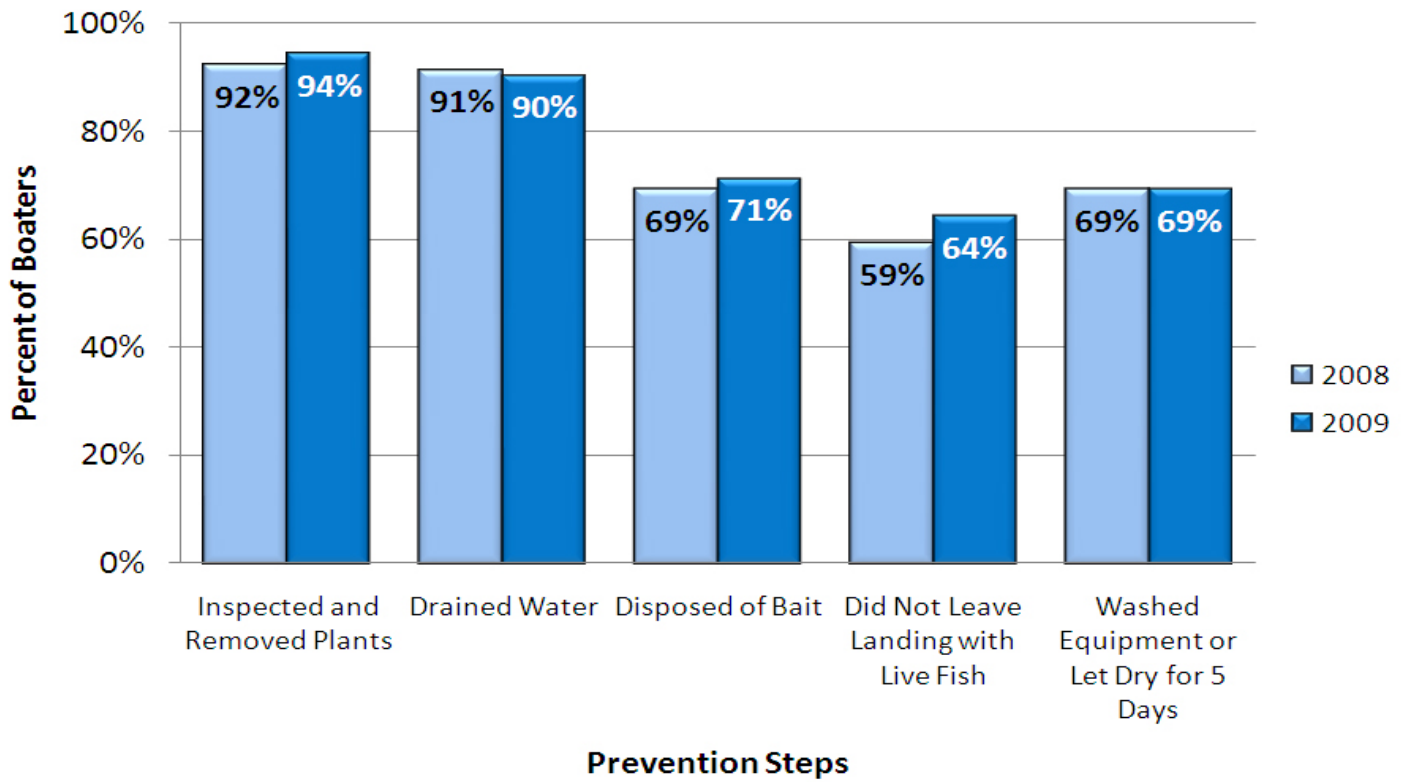
Boaters Aware of WI Stat. 30.715(2)(3) 2004-2009



Boaters Who Learned About AIS from a Watercraft Inspector 2004-2009



Prevention Steps Taken by Boaters (After Their Last Boating Trip)



Boater Sources of Information About AIS in 2009

