

2017 CBI Training

1. HANDOUTS: Handbook, Locations Brochure, Survey Form, Winch Stickers, Specimen Bags

2. WHY INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS (IAS) ARE A THREAT TO LAKES, PONDS, RIVERS, STREAMS

- IAS have multiple reproductive strategies & no natural enemies; grow vigorously; out-compete natives.
- Blanket lake surface, impeding recreational uses; lower property values; change ecology
- Can rarely be eradicated; are expensive to manage (an “everafter” cost); threaten all other fresh waters.

3. MAINE MILFOIL LAW - BANNED 11 PLANT SPECIES AND DEFINED PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

- It is illegal to transport any aquatic plant on boat, trailer, equipment in ME: fine = up to \$2,500
- All motorized water craft using inland waters must affix a current years sticker (ME's is attached to the boat registration sticker): fine = up to \$500
- Persons may not introduce the 11 banned plants into Maine waters: fine = up to \$5,000
- Persons may not introduce, propagate or sell the 11 banned plants: fine up to \$2,500
- Funding Mechanism: Sticker revenue goes into dedicated state fund

4. CBI INSPECTIONS ARE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

- 3 Objectives: Stop Invasives, Teach How to Inspect, Get a “Yes” to self-inspection
- Invasive fish – In 2014 an inspector at Friends of Cobbossee Watershed stopped a boater transporting black crappie. Inspectors should ask to see a live well if the boat has one (see page 1 in the handbook for details).
- Courtesy Boat Inspector=No right to intervene, Need Permission to inspect--CBI's are not enforcement
- Show trainees how to approach Boater, what to do if they get a “No”
- EMPHASIZE CBI's represent a lake and town community that is depending on excellent performance every day (promptness, reliability, attentiveness, politeness, cleanliness, thoroughness, and legible handwriting!)
- Show CBI video.

5. GO OVER THE SURVEY FORM IN DETAIL

- Go over two top lines and all columns carefully, making sure inspectors understand what is expected for each.
- If last lake visited was out of state or known Maine infestation site, prime your inspectors to be extra vigilant.

6. IMPORTANT POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

- **Procedure for sending suspicious plants to VLMP –suspicious plants should be sent to VLMP, no exceptions**
- How to handle stickerless motorized boats: tell boater about penalty and where to get stickers locally
- How to handle a recalcitrant boater (refuses inspection): pleasantly step aside, give locations brochure
- Top two lines of inspection form MUST be filled out. Failure to do so may result in the form being thrown out.
- Check the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W) website to see if there are any tournaments on your lake: http://www.maine.gov/ifw/fishing/derbies_tournaments/basstournaments.htm
- Bass clubs are required by the state to conduct inspections on participating bass boats at every tournament and submit inspection forms to IF&W.
- If lake associations want to assist with tournament inspections, recommend contacting Bass Club prior to tournament to discuss logistics.
- CBI should stay on their feet while there is a boat at the launch.

7. HELPFUL HINTS FOR CBI SUPERVISORS:

- Pre-fill parts of the inspection form to avoid mistakes (host agency, lake name, town, launch)
- Have photocopies made at Staples or a local printer if you do not have a reliable printer available.
- Quickly check forms for mistakes before sending them to LEA.
- Check in with inspectors, especially at the beginning of the season. Use the Mystery Boater program outlined on page 11 and 12 in the handbook.

8. ROLE PLAYING

- Trainees should play both the inspector and the boater to get a feel for how to approach boaters.
- It may be helpful to pair veterans with new inspectors.

9. Q & A

The Inspection Form

Lake Name, Town and Launch Name/Location - These fields need to be filled out consistently on every sheet. There should be only one name for each launch. Some coordinators fill these fields in before making copies to distribute to the inspectors. If you don't do this, please make sure all inspectors are using the same name for each launch site.

Date - Should be written out completely in mm/dd/yy format.

Military Time - Make sure to check inspection forms and correct any times that are not in military time before submitting them to LEA. Page 6 in the handbook has a chart showing military time conversions.

Inspector Name - First and last name for all inspectors – no initials please.

Host Agency – This is another field that can be pre-filled before being given to inspectors. Make sure that all inspectors use the same abbreviation.

If Motorized - Inspectors should write down the entire Bow Registration number. Make sure inspectors know to write down the alpha numeric number on the boat, not the annual registration sticker number or license plate number.

Current Year's Sticker - If a boat is non-motorized the NM should be circled on the form. Non-motorized boats should be inspected. If 'Yes' or 'No' is circled than it is understood that the boat is motorized and there should be a bow registration number recorded. If the boat does not have the current year's sticker the inspector should inform them of the risk of a fine and let them know where they can pick one up. Sticker information is found on page 5 in the handbook.

Previous Waterbody Visited - When a boat is entering the lake the inspector should ask about the last lake the boat was in. If the boat is leaving the lake the inspector should ask about the *previous* lake visited, that means the lake before the current one they are leaving, if applicable. It is very important to fill in this field if a plant is found.

Plants Found? - If there are no plants found the inspector should circle "No". If plants are found they circle "Yes" and they *must* mark either yes or no in the next column. Inspectors can use the color pictures of plants found on pages 21-24 of the CBI Handbook to help determine if a plant fragment is suspicious. If the plant is obviously not invasive (grass, seaweed, etc) then the inspector should circle no. If they are not sure, they should bag it and turn it in to their program coordinator who will either confirm it is not invasive or send it in to the VLMP for positive identification. Follow the protocol in the CBI Handbook (Page 7) for sending the plant to the VLMP. Important - keep the form until you have an ID from the VLMP. If VLMP doesn't confirm the identification within a week, send the form on to the LEA with a note explaining the situation.

Notes:

- Only ten inspections can be recorded on one page. If the inspector runs out of forms they should transcribe the information when they get more. CBI coordinators should check all forms for mistakes before sending them to the LEA.
- Each inspector must have their own form for every shift. Inspectors cannot share forms (top of page 5 in the handbook).
- Inspection forms must be sent to LEA every two weeks.