

The Great Lakes

Policy Report

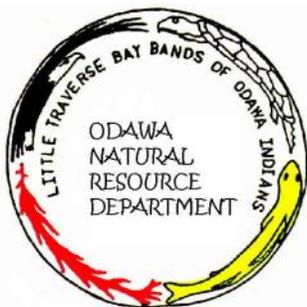
Volume 3, Issue 1,
January 2014

IN THIS ISSUE

Paradise Lake.....1
 LTBB Fish Hatchery1
 Great Lakes Policy Watch.....4

The Great Lakes Policy Report is a quarterly news report published by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Natural Resource Department's Environmental Services Program. The report features Great Lakes policy updates and relevant initiatives, projects, and issues.

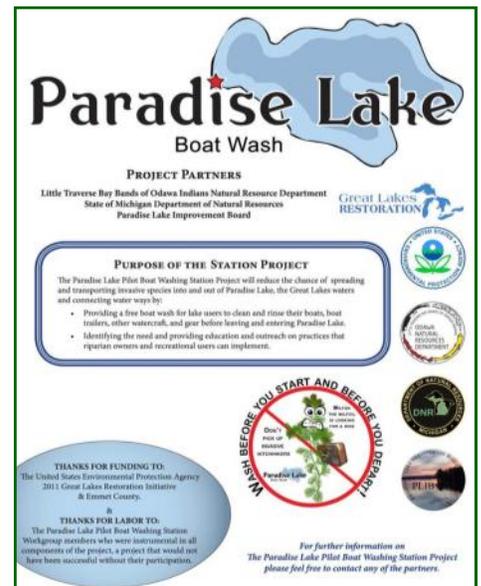
The report is meant to be an educational document, and does not express an opinion on the subjects discussed. Stories and information cited in this report are taken from a variety of sources including news articles, non-governmental reports, interviews, and government documents.



Paradise lake Boat Wash Station

The Paradise Lake Boat Wash Station is wrapped up its first summer of operation in 2013. In 2012, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Environmental Services Program was awarded a grant through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to build a boat washing station on Paradise Lake to control the spread of aquatic invasive species. The Project also had an education and outreach aspect, including surveying water users' opinions on invasive species, the boat wash, and if they will use it. Selected results from the surveys can be found below.

The two main objectives of the project are to control the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil – an invasive aquatic plant already found in the lake – to other



The Paradise Lake Boat Wash Station project sign. Photo Credit K.Davis

Continued on page 2

Little Traverse Bay Bands' Fish Hatchery

On August 2, 2013, The Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Natural Resource Department officially opened the tribe's first fish hatchery. The hatchery, located north of Pellston, MI in Emmet County, is equipped with an indoor rearing system as well as two outdoor ponds capable of raising approximately 40,000 walleye. Through a cooperative effort with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the tribe was able to raise lake sturgeon in the hatchery during the summer. The



Above, Little Traverse Bay Bands' recently finished fish hatchery. Photo Credit LTBB GLFP

Continued on page 4



Paradise Lake Boat Wash Station continued from page 1

lakes, and prevent other invasive species from entering Paradise Lake. Aquatic invasive species can often attach to boats and boat trailers and be unintentionally transferred to other locations where they cause harm. Invasive aquatic plants and the invasive zebra and quagga mussels are known to be introduced into new water bodies in this way. By washing off the boat and trailer before entering and after leaving a waterbody, a user can remove harmful invasive species that would otherwise be transferred to the next waterbody the boat is used at.

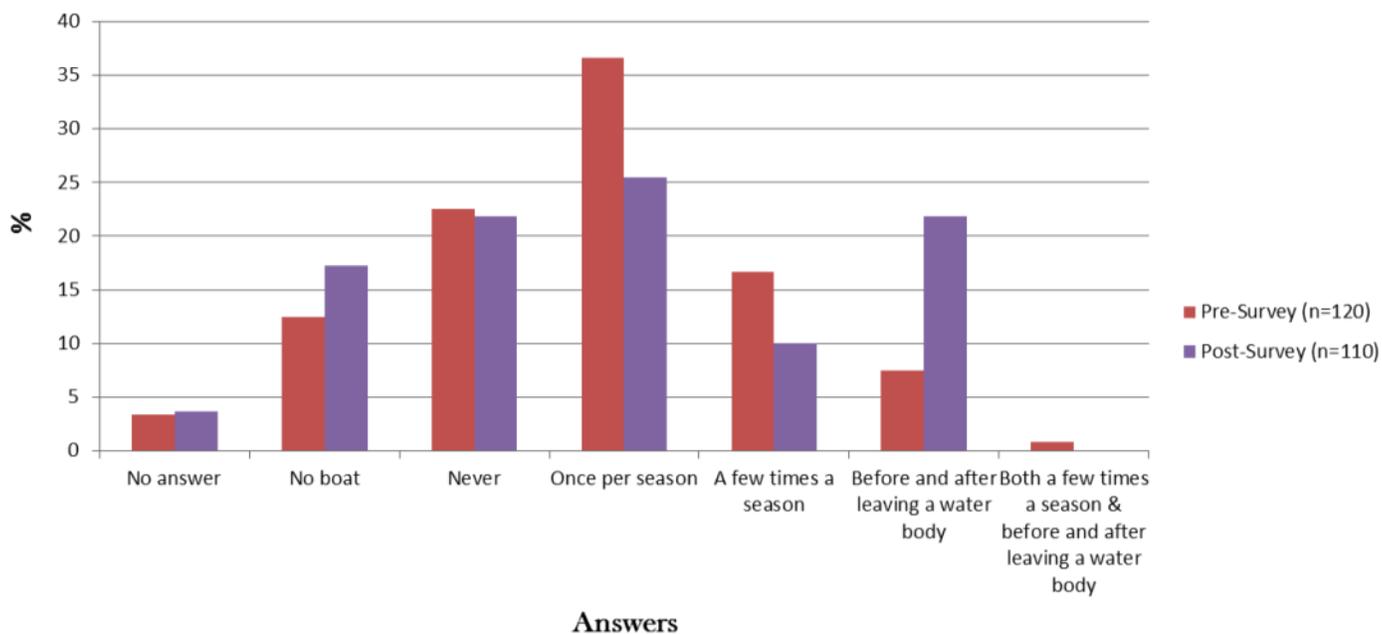
Additionally, the project is intended to assess the viability of using a cooperative, multi-stakeholder approach to install boat wash stations that are successfully utilized by water users. In addition to being led by the tribe, the Paradise Lake project included the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Paradise Lake Improvement Board, and local citizens. Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council also actively participated in the project. Through this project and

others, all participants are actively trying to reduce the spread and harm caused by aquatic invasive species in Northern Michigan.



Pictured above, a road sign directing traffic to the Paradise Lake Boat Wash Station. Photo Credit K. Davis

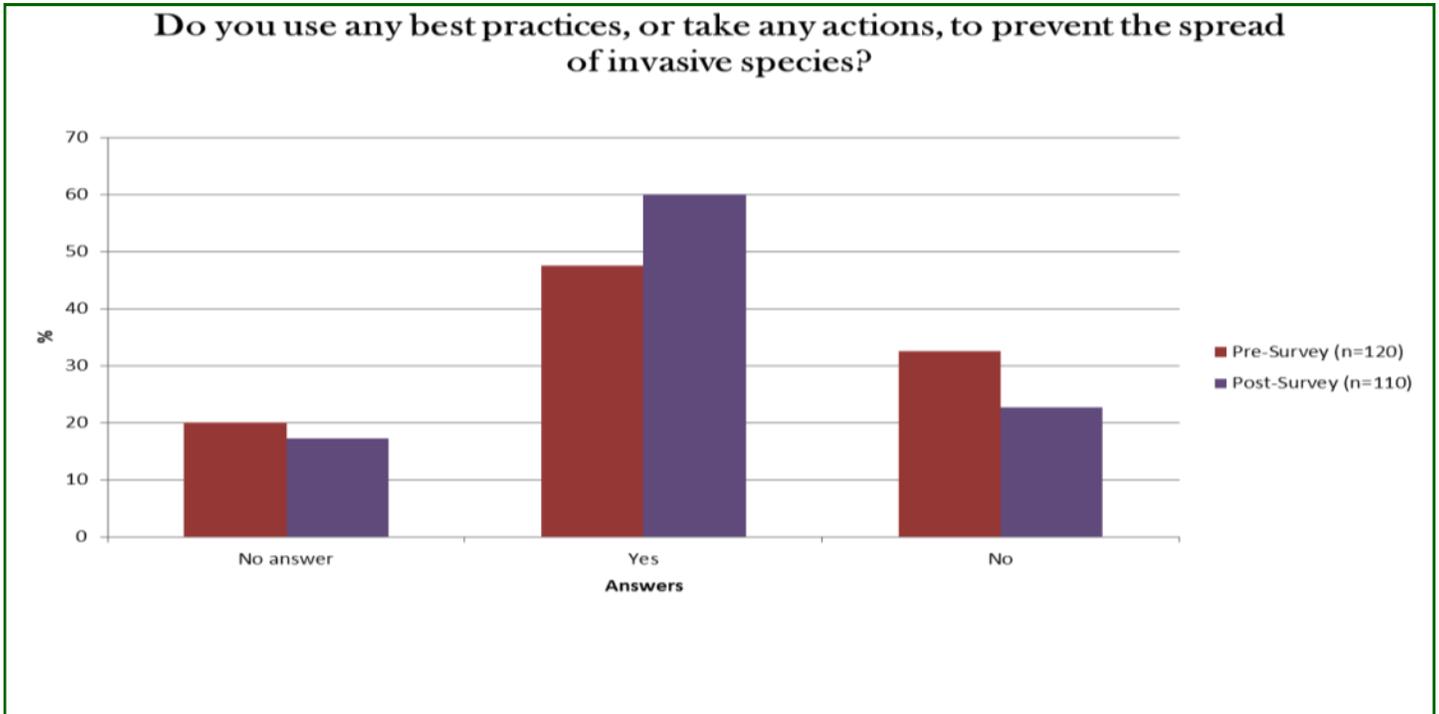
How often do you wash your boat before and after leaving a water body?



The graph above shows the comparison between survey results taken pre-boat wash station installation (red) and survey results taken post-boat wash station installation (purple). Of particular note is the increase in the number of people who said they wash their boats “before and after leaving a water body” once the station was installed. Credit K. Davis

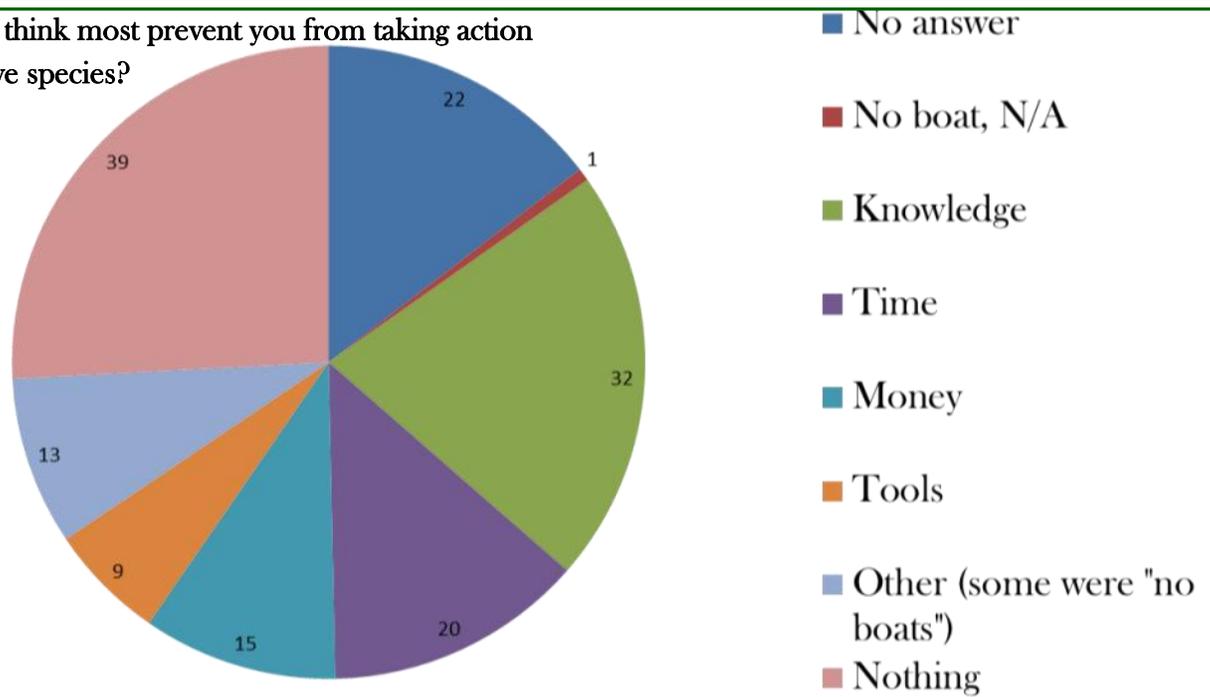


Paradise Lake Boat Wash Station continued from page 3



The graph above shows the comparison between survey results taken Pre-boat wash station installation (red) and survey results taken Post-boat wash station installation (purple). Again, more people said they take action to prevent the spread of invasive species once the station was installed. Credit: K. Davis

What do you think most prevent you from taking action against invasive species?



The chart above shows what people surveyed thought prevented them from taking action against invasive species after the boat wash was constructed. The most common answer was that nothing prevents them from taking action, followed close by knowledge being the primary deterrent of action. Credit: K. Davis

GREAT LAKES POLICY WATCH

In this section you can find current legislation and proposed regulations related to the Great Lakes. When applicable public comment periods and information on how to comment will be given.

Rules and Regulations

On January 6, USACE submitted to Congress the GLMRIS Report that presents a range of options and technologies available to prevent aquatic nuisance species (ANS) movement between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins through aquatic connections. The report includes options ranging from taking no action to increased education efforts to physical separation of the two basins. More information and the report can be found here: <http://glmr.is.anl.gov/>

The U.S. House bill Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Conservation and Recreation Act passed out of committee on January 28. The bill designates specified land and inland water within the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan, to be known as the Sleeping Bear Dunes Wilderness, as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System. An identical bill in the U.S. Senate has been referred to committee with no movement to date. You can find more information at <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr163>

LTBB Fish Hatchery continued from page 1

juvenile lake sturgeon were released into Sturgeon River in early September, making the hatchery's first project a success.

The tribe's first research venture began early in winter 2013, when tribal fisheries staff collected cisco (also called lake herring) eggs out of Grand Traverse Bay. A once-thriving Lake Michigan forage whitefish, the cisco has since been reduced to a small remnant population in Lake Michigan. The tribe is interested in supplementing the cisco population as it was historically a primary prey fish in Lake Michigan.

Overfishing in the early to mid-1900s along with invasive species and other environmental stressors has contributed to the near elimination of this species in Lake Michigan. To date, very little research has been done on raising cisco in a hatchery – especially in the Great Lakes region. The tribe hopes to gain needed knowledge on the viability of hatchery-raised cisco. In late January 2014 the eggs hatched. Staff are assessing the needed conditions for successful rearing. The hope is that the fish will eventually be stocked in Lake Michigan. Additionally, in 2014 the department hopes to put the rearing outdoor ponds to use by raising walleye.



Above, juvenile lake sturgeon being raised in LTBB's fish hatchery, summer 2013. Photo Credit LTBB GLFP



Developed cisco eggs ready to hatch, as seen under a microscope . Photo Credit D. Larson, GLFP



Please Recycle



Questions, comments, or to join our E-mail list
Contact

Lucas Evans

Great Lakes Policy Specialist

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

LEvans@ltbbodawa-nsn.gov

Phone: (231) 242-1570

<http://www.ltbbodawa-nsn.gov/Departments/NaturalResources/Programs/Environmental/EnvironmentalStart.htm>



Printed on 100%

Post-consumer recycled paper