

Mussel Transport on Recently Purchased Boats



Midwest Mussel Fouled Vessels

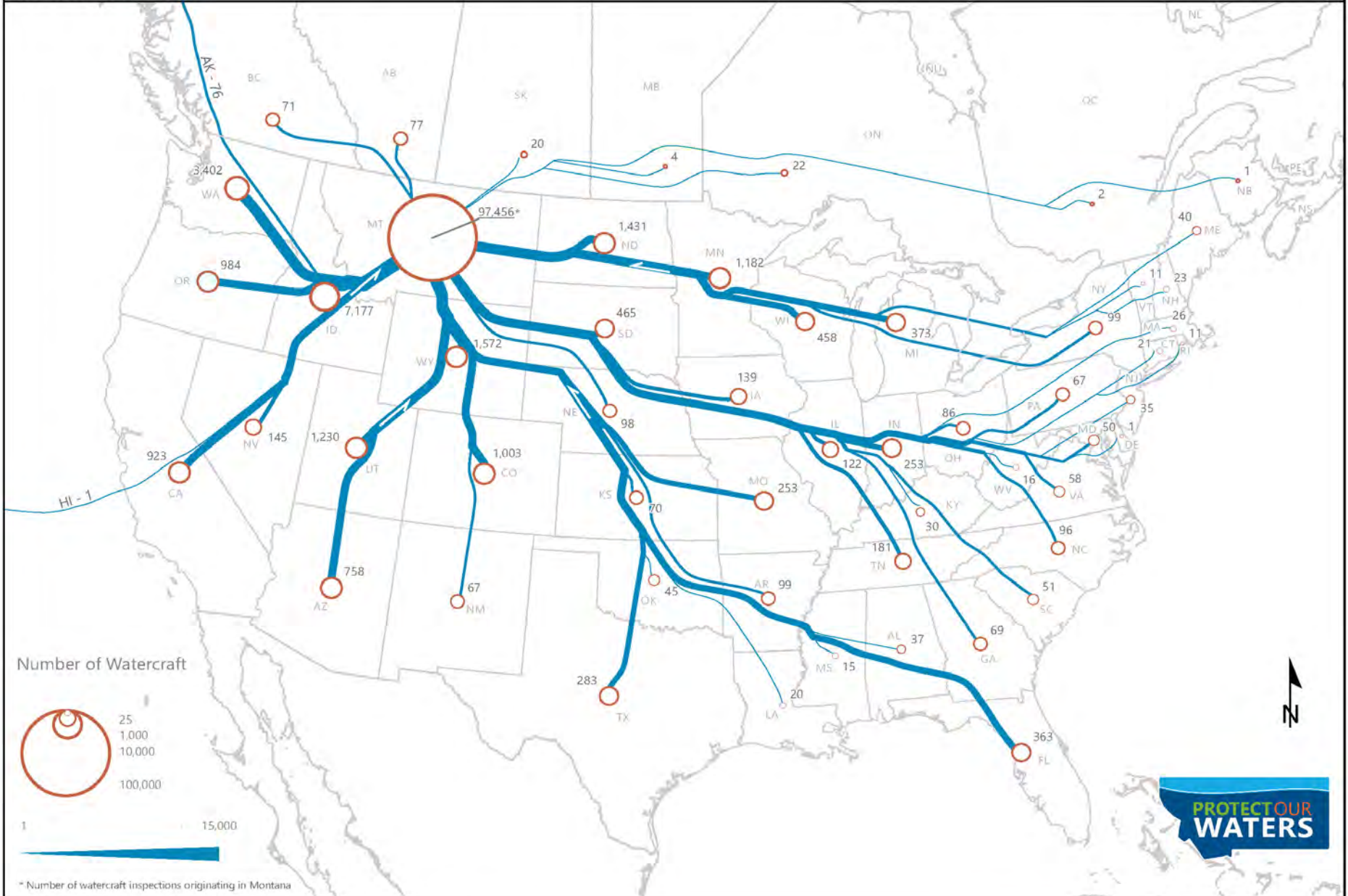
- Large boat selection and lower prices.
- Online sales.
- Often commercially transported.
- Small number / significant risk.
- No focused effort to address pathway.



Origin of AIS Watercraft Inspections in Montana

MONTANA FWP

2020 Boat Inspection Season



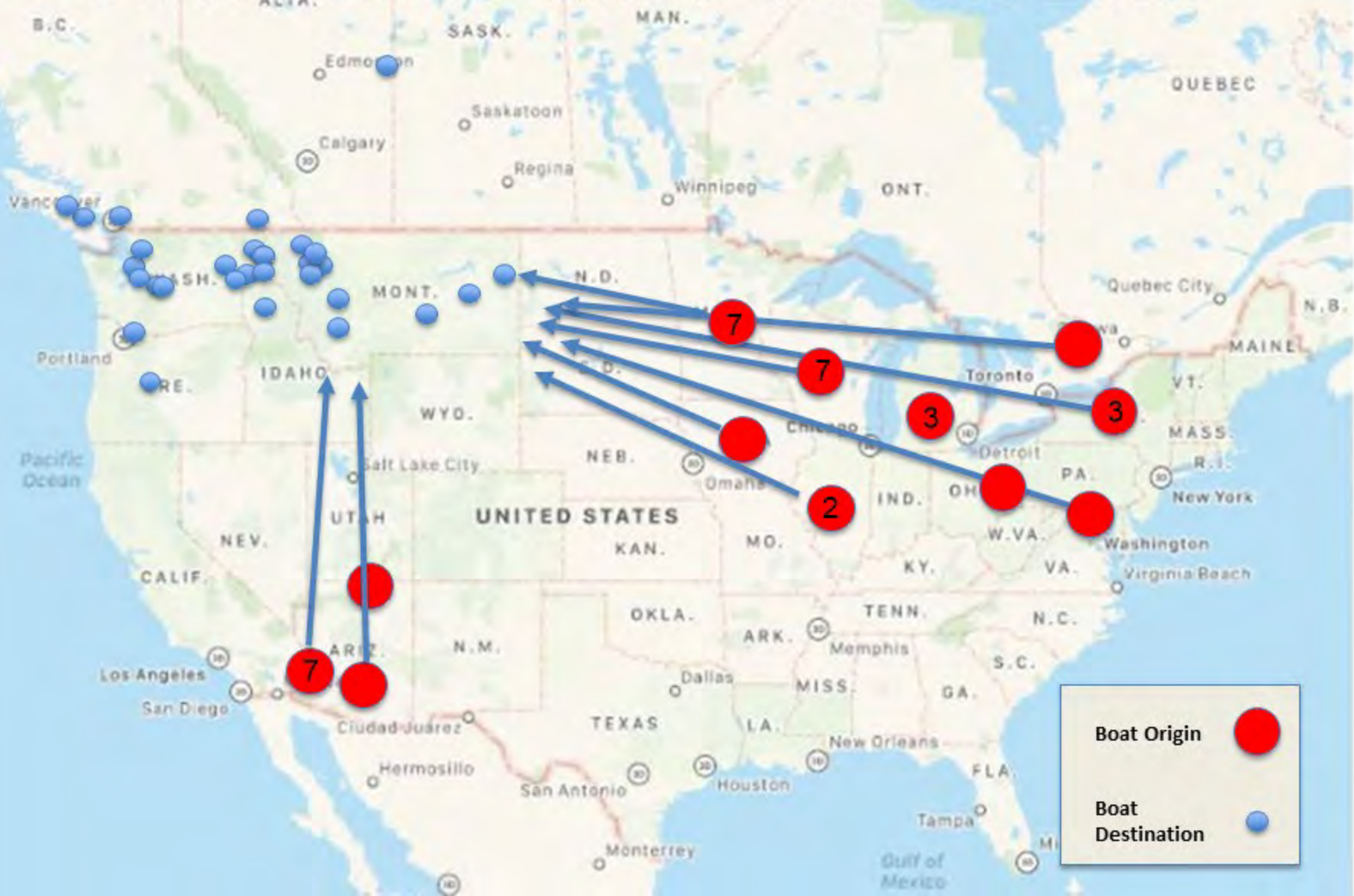
Data Collected by FWP AIS field staff during the 2020 Season.

Administrative boundaries and FWP Lands data from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Helena, MT. Reference data from ESRI

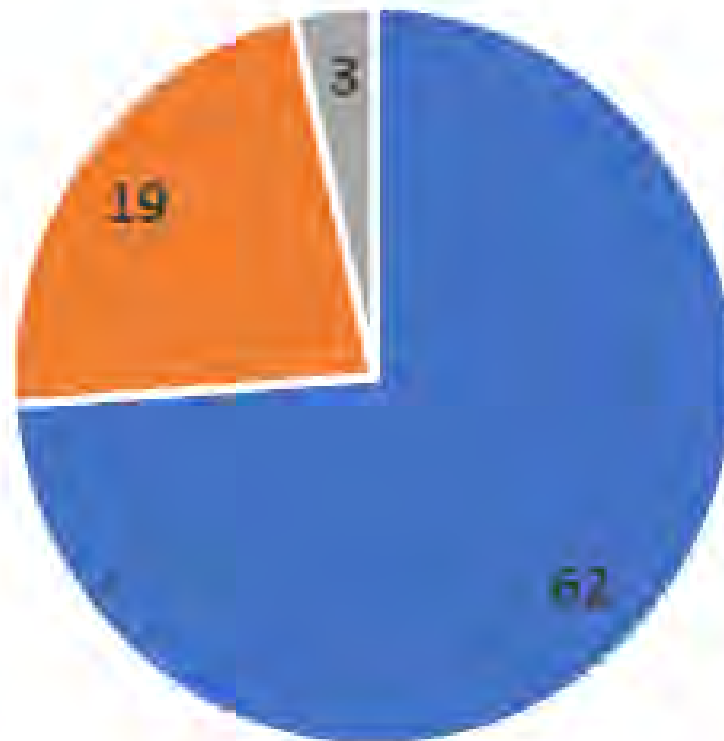
ISR - 00445831 RCA 10/20

0 175 350
Miles

35 Mussel Fouled Vessels 2020



Mussel Vessel Origin 2017 to 2020 (84 Total)



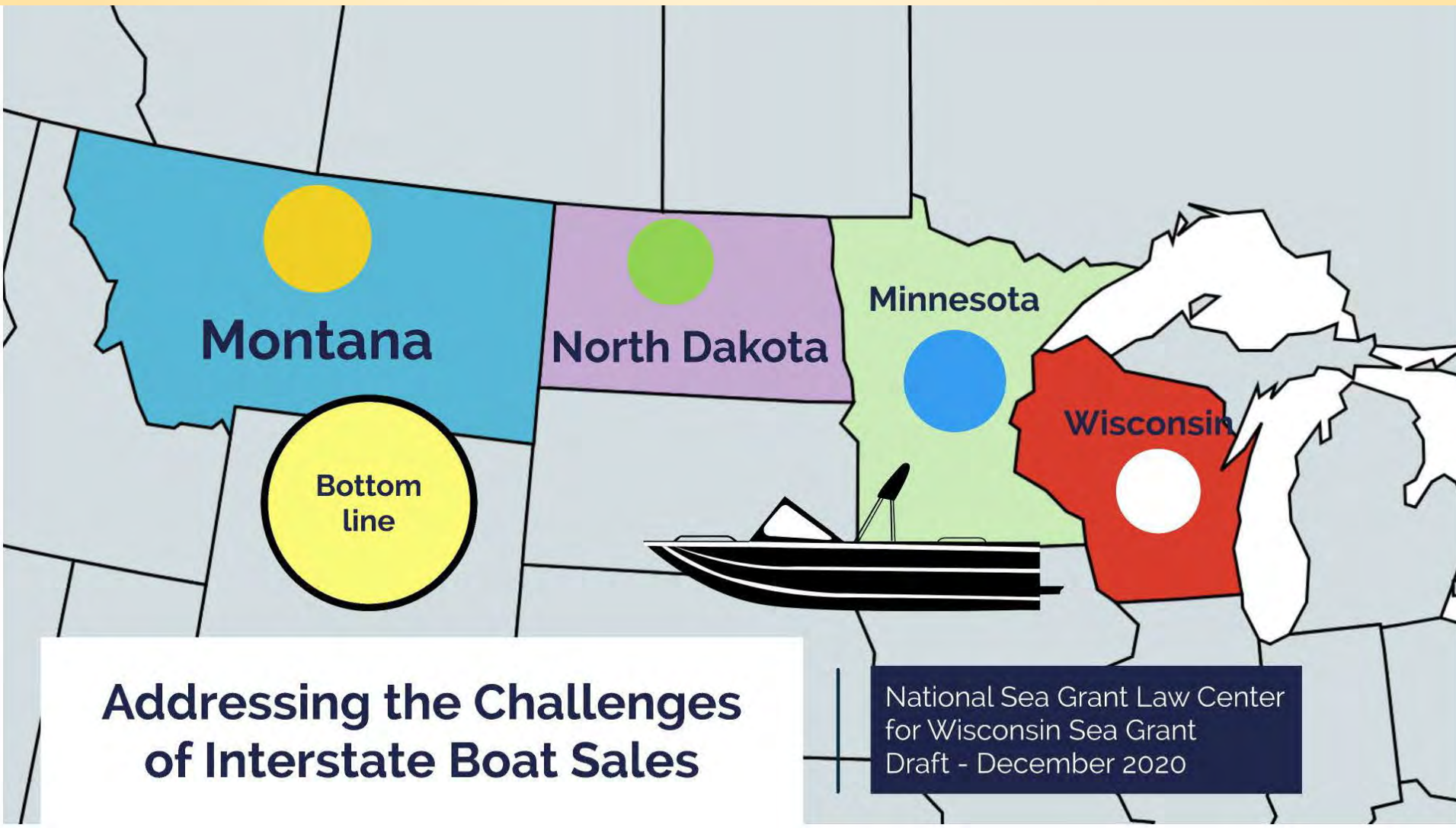
■ Midwest ■ Southwest ■ Other

Montana Mussel Intercept Stats

- 84 boats: 2017 to 2020
 - Small data set.
- 74% from Midwestern States.
 - Over 60% recently purchased.
 - Over 50% commercially transported.
- Mussel possession and transport prohibited along entire route of travel.



National Sea Grant Law Center Analysis



**Addressing the Challenges
of Interstate Boat Sales**

National Sea Grant Law Center
for Wisconsin Sea Grant
Draft - December 2020

A stylized map of the United States is shown in the background. The states are outlined in black. Wisconsin is highlighted in a solid red color. Other states like Minnesota, Illinois, and Michigan are visible in various colors like purple, blue, and grey. A large white circle is overlaid on the map, containing the title and list.

Wisconsin

- Illegal to transport and possess mussels.
- Water must be drained upon exit.
- No inspection requirement.



Minnesota

- Illegal to transport and possess mussels.
- Water must be drained upon exit.
- Inspections authorized only for watercraft entering or exiting body of water.

A stylized map of the United States is shown in the background, with states colored in light blue, light green, and red. A large green circle is centered over the state of North Dakota. The title 'North Dakota' is written in a large, bold, dark blue font across the center of the green circle.

North Dakota

- Illegal to possess or transport mussels.
- Drain plugs must be removed and open during transport.
- No inspection program or requirements.

- 
- A map of Montana is shown in the background, with its counties outlined in black. A large yellow circle is overlaid on the map, centered over the state. Inside this circle, there is a list of two bullet points and the word "Montana" at the bottom.
- Illegal to possess or transport mussels.
 - All watercraft must be inspected upon entering state and stop at all open watercraft inspection stations they encounter.

Montana

A map of the Great Lakes region is shown in the background, with states colored in light blue, purple, green, and red. A large yellow circle with a thick black border is centered over the map. Inside the circle, the text 'Bottom line' is written in a bold, dark blue font and underlined. Below the title is a bulleted list of four points regarding mussel transport regulations.

Bottom line

- Illegal to possess and transport mussels throughout.
- Mussels crossing state lines = **violation of the Lacey Act!**
- Boats required to be drained in each state along route.
- First inspection requirement encountered is Montana.

Case Study

- Used boat purchase
- Transported from Lake Erie to Idaho.
- Washington Resident
- 3-days out of water
- Yacht Brokers Assn (NY)
- RCR Yachts (OH)
- Brands Marina (OH)
- Gentry and Sons Trucking (TN)



Addressing This Pathway

- Identify strategies for targeted outreach:
 - Boat sale websites, brokers, marinas, Craigslist.
 - Yacht Brokers Association.
 - Marine Trade Association.
- Boat registration requirements
- Need local and regional support.



Moving Forward

- Collect better source info from mussel boats:
 - How was the purchased boat found?
 - Where did the boat come from?
 - How was a transporter identified?
- Elevate the Conversation: ANSTF and GLP.
- Encourage Midwest state involvement.
 - Coordinated regional targeted outreach.
- Targeted outreach to Yacht Brokers and Marine Trade Association.
 - Customer Service.





CleanDrainDryMT.com

