

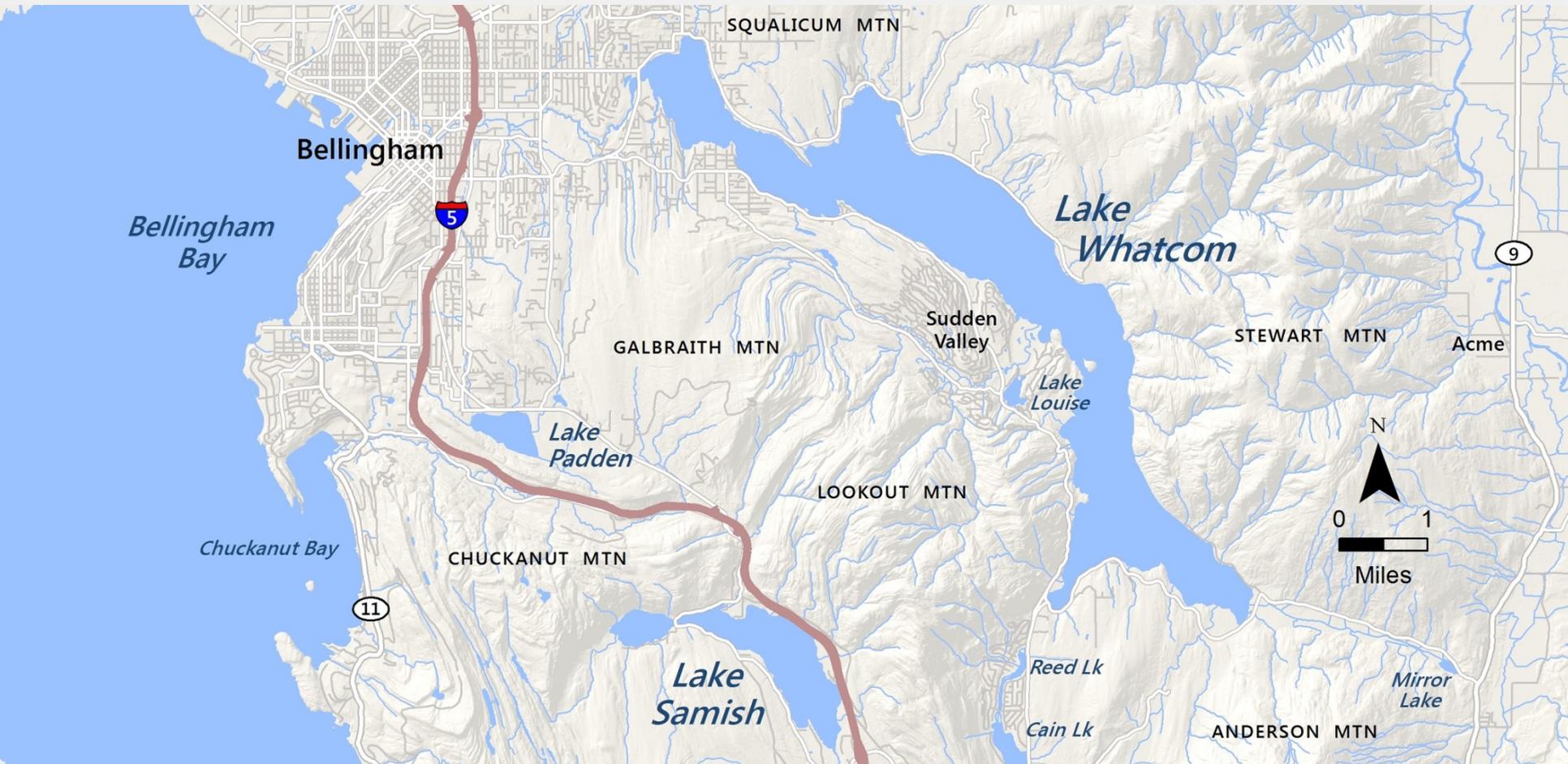


# Whatcom Boat Inspections: 2016 Program Update

CRB Team Meeting  
December 6, 2016



# Whatcom Boat Inspections



# Lake Whatcom



# Lake Whatcom

- Surface Area: **5,000 acres**
- Open, multiple-use lake
- **Drinking water source for over 95,000 people**
- Lake Whatcom Watershed is home to 15,000 residents
- Popular recreational site for visitors and residents



# Lake Samish

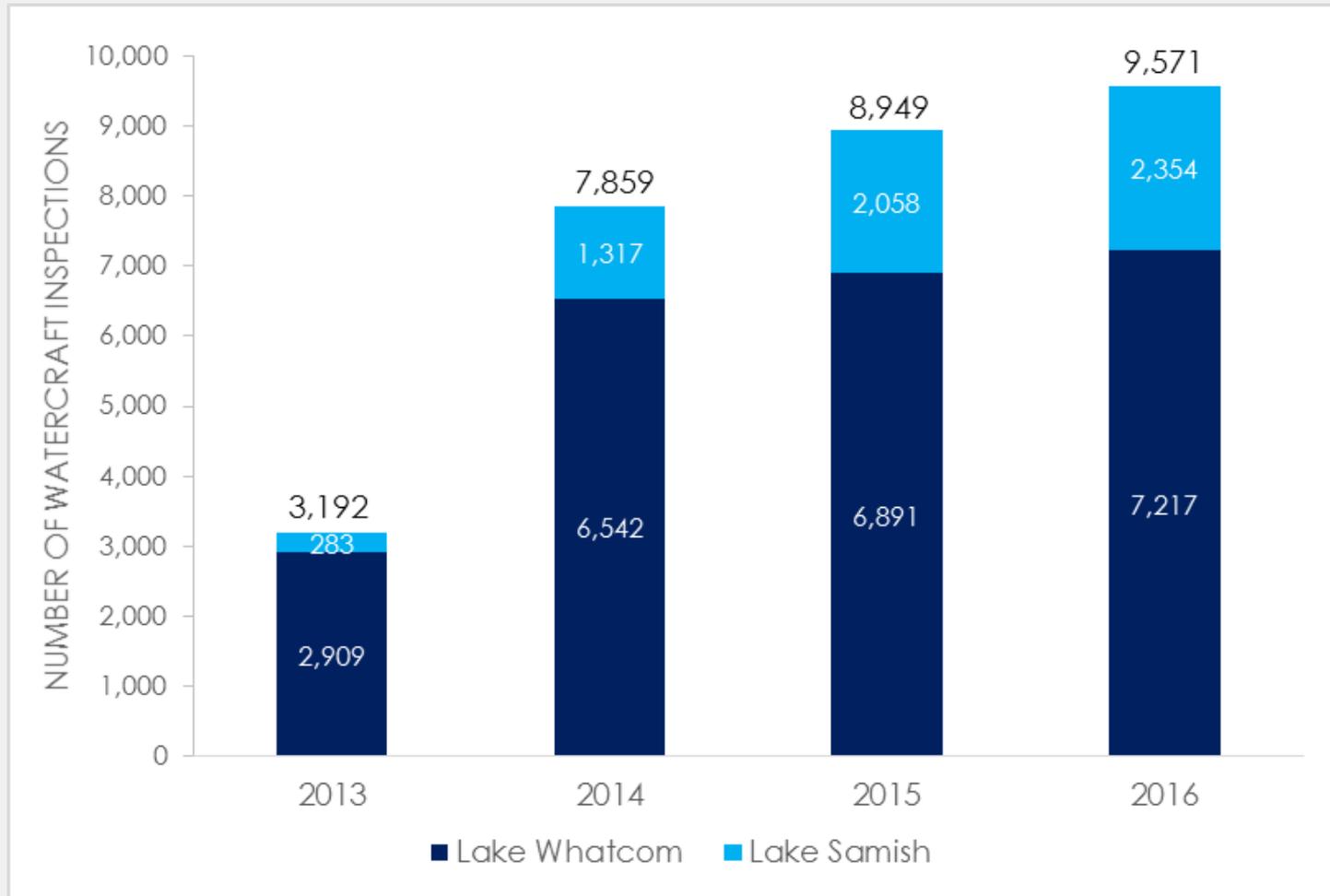


# Lake Samish

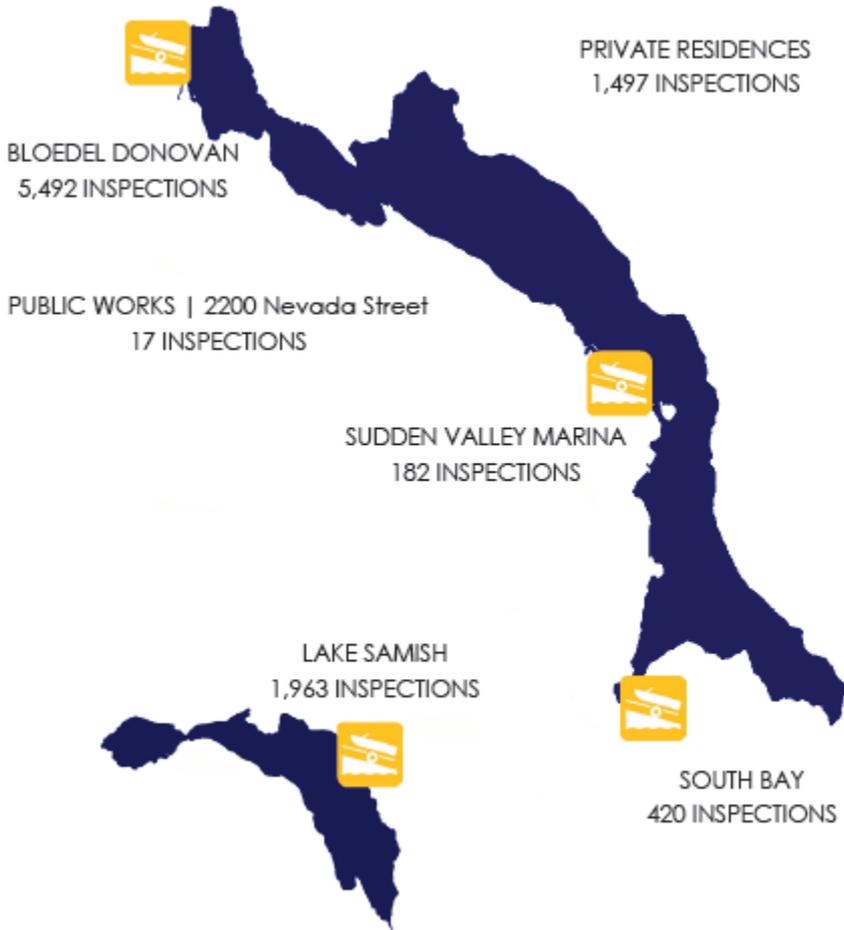
- Surface Area: **814 acres**
- Open, multiple-use lake
- Year-round Kokanee fishery
- Source of drinking water to lakeside residents
- Popular recreational site for visitors and residents



## Annual total number of watercraft inspections conducted by Aquatic Invasive Species Program 2013–2016



# Whatcom Boat Inspection Program highlights, 2016



PRIVATE RESIDENCES  
1,497 INSPECTIONS

**16** INSPECTORS  
— AT —  
**4** LAUNCHES

**9,571**  
**BOATS**  
INSPECTED



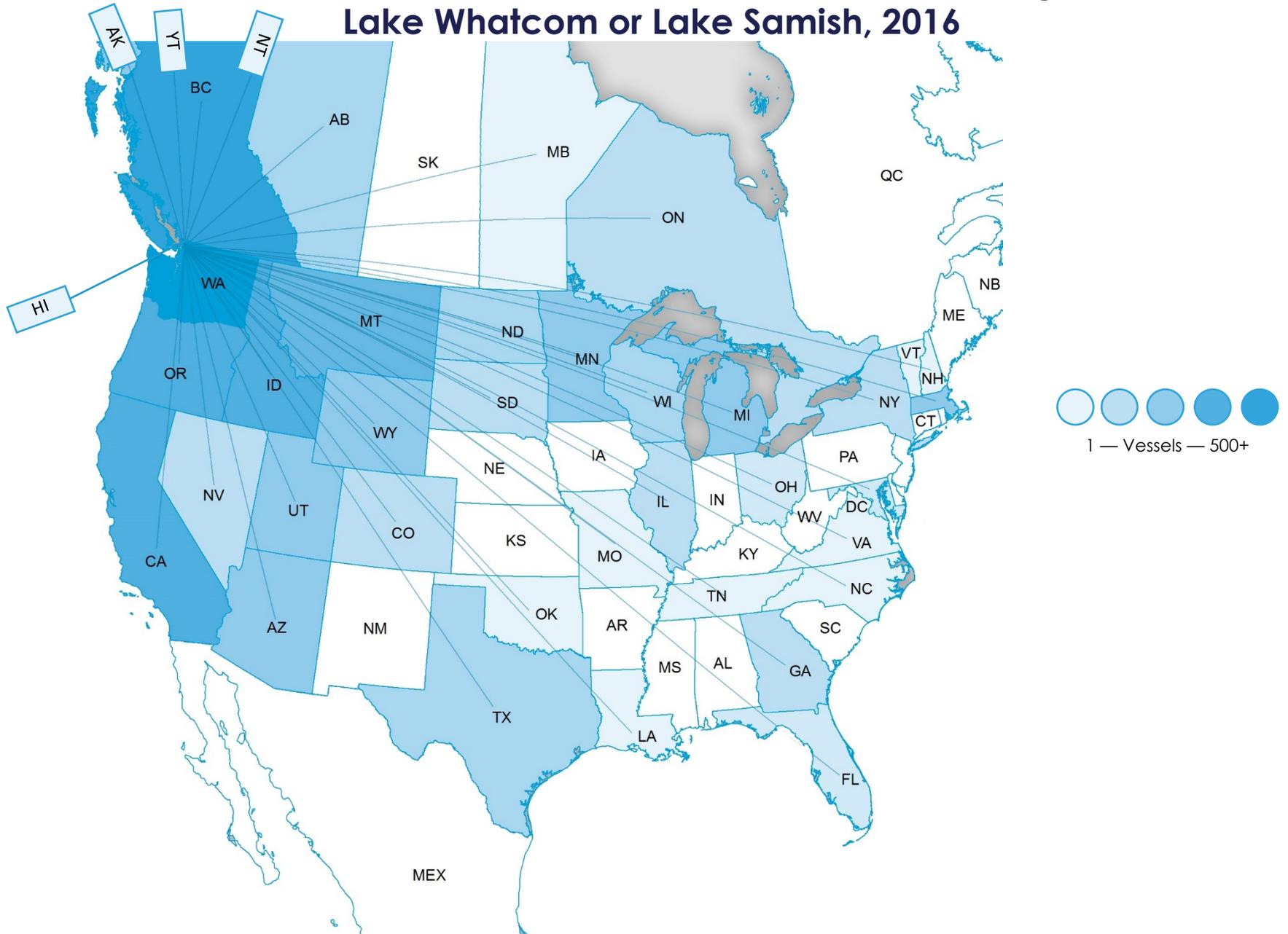
**2,145**  
VISITORS

**201**   
BOATS CARRIED  
**STANDING WATER**  
that had to be drained

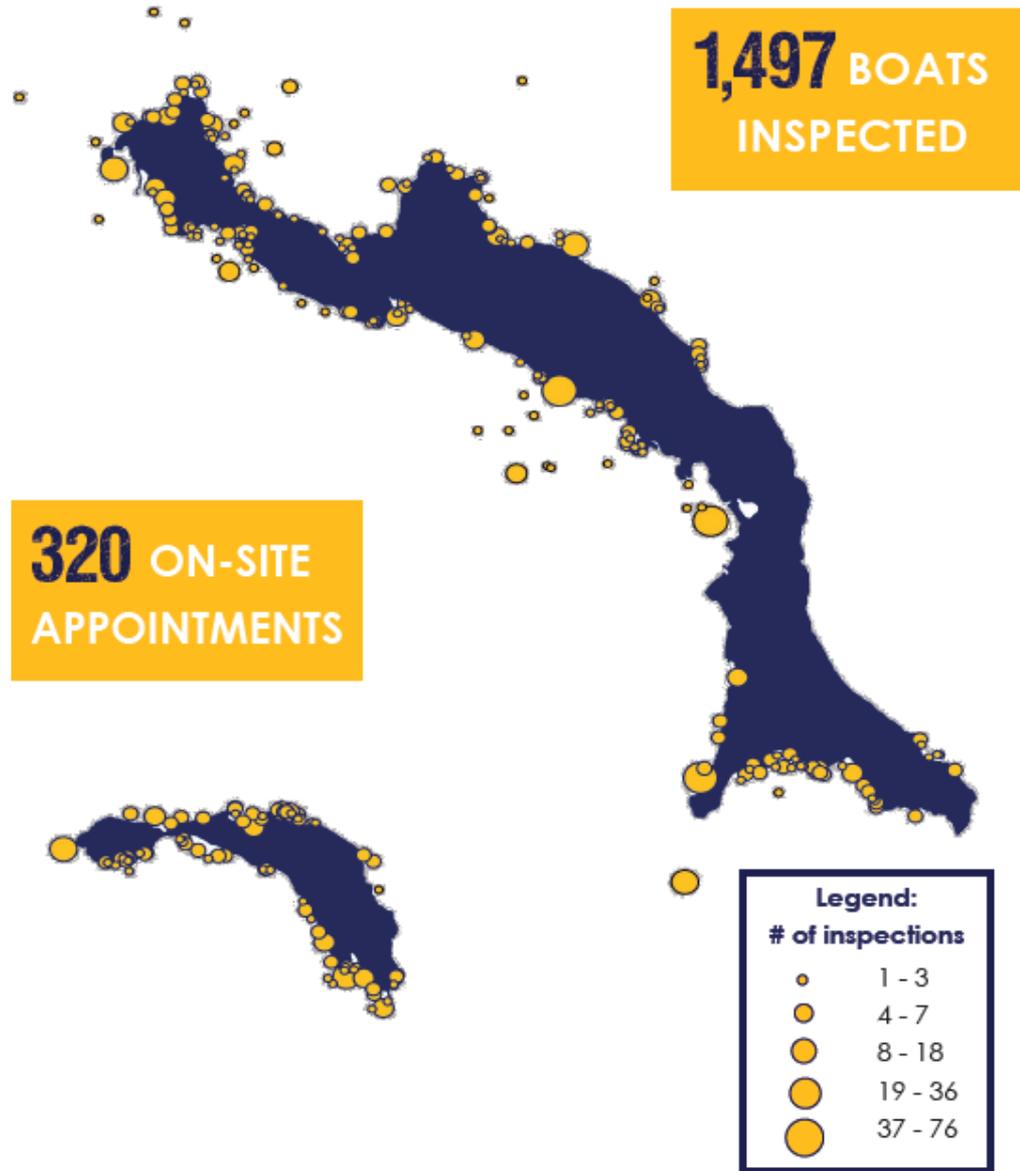
**140**  BOATS CARRIED  
**AQUATIC PLANTS**  
that had to be removed



# Previous water bodies visited by vessels launching at Lake Whatcom or Lake Samish, 2016



# On-Site Watercraft Inspections



# EARLY DETECTION AND MONITORING

In August 2016, aquatic invasive species inspectors conducted shoreline surveys for Asian clams and other aquatic invasive species at several public access points at Lake Whatcom and Lake Samish. Eight sites at Lake Whatcom had already been identified as having established populations of Asian clams during survey work conducted from 2011 through 2015. These sites were used to train the new staff on invasive species identification and monitoring and equipment decontamination protocols prior to surveying new sites.

In addition to recording Asian clam presence/absence, aquatic invasive species inspectors also recorded and identified any other species present in the area including worms, tadpoles, snails, and other aquatic plants. At sites where Asian clams were present, inspectors used transects and quadrats to determine the extent of the infestation and the approximate density of clams per square meter at that location. This data will now serve as a baseline to monitor population changes at these sites over time.

As a result of this monitoring effort, five additional Asian clam colonies were discovered at the South Bay WDFW Launch, AM and PM Beaches in Sudden Valley, the Sudden Valley Marina swim area, and at Euclid Park. Sites with the highest density of Asian clams were Morgan Street Beach, Lake Whatcom Park North, South Bay WDFW Launch, Bloedel Donovan, and AM Beach with up to 147, 103, 100, 94, and 91 clams per square meter, respectively.



**Figure 9 | Aquatic invasive species monitoring locations and results at Lake Whatcom, 2016**



## EARLY DETECTION AND MONITORING

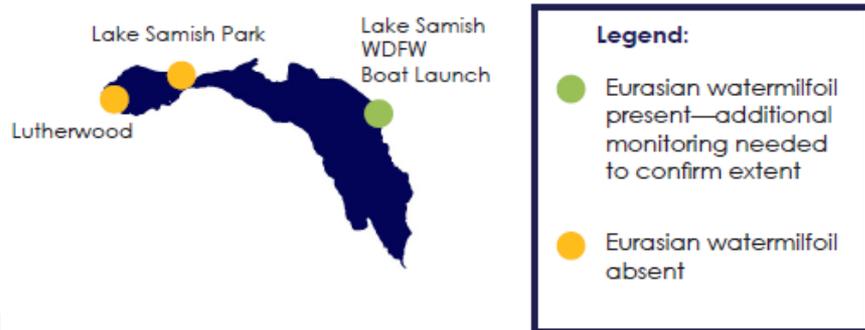
No Asian clams were discovered during the surveys at Lake Samish at Lutherwood, Lake Samish Park, and the Lake Samish WDFW Launch; however, two invasive aquatic plants, yellow flag iris and fragrant water lily were again observed at the survey locations along with extensive patches of non-native water celery.

Additionally, a fragment of Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered near the Lake Samish WDFW Launch during the shoreline/kayak survey. This invasive species has not previously been documented in Lake Samish.

Following this discovery, the Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board conducted an aquatic plant survey of Lake Samish by boat on September 21. No additional fragments of Eurasian watermilfoil were found; however, annual aquatic plant surveys will be scheduled to ensure early detection of any new aquatic invasive species in Lake Samish.

Aquatic invasive species inspectors were able to assist with the boat survey of Lake Samish as well as additional aquatic plant surveys that were conducted at Fazon and Wiser lakes. Information collected during these surveys has increased our knowledge of the aquatic communities living in our local lakes and their vulnerability to the unintentional release of species from elsewhere.

**Figure 10 | Aquatic invasive species monitoring locations and results at Lake Samish, 2016**



PHOTOS: Top: AIS inspectors monitor for Asian clams at Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center (Lutherwood). Middle (Left): Fragrant water lily collected at Lutherwood. Middle (Right): Common elodea (native) on throw rake sample from Lutherwood. Bottom: Whatcom County staff use throw rake to inventory aquatic plants during boat survey at



# Education & Outreach

- In-person at boat launches, on-site appointments, by phone, at events
- Neighbor to neighbor
- Brochures
- Signs
- Advertisements
- Mailings
- Conferences and events

**HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVES!**

THESE NON-NATIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS CAN DAMAGE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, DISPLACE NATIVE SPECIES, CAUSE SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE, AND HARM HUMAN HEALTH.

**AFTER TRAVELING ON ANY WATERWAY:**

**CLEAN** **DRAIN** **DRY**



**CLEAN** all aquatic plants, animals, and mud from your boat and gear, especially in crevices and hidden areas. Dispose of debris in the trash or on dry land.

**DRAIN** water from hatches, boat wells, bags, bailers, and containers before leaving the area.

**DRY** your boat and gear completely between outings. Store your boat and gear in a dry place where aquatic invasives cannot survive.

  
[www.whatcomboatinspections.com](http://www.whatcomboatinspections.com)



**WHATCOM BOAT INSPECTIONS**  
ON LAKE WHATCOM & LAKE SAMISH IN 2015

**CLEAN DRAIN DRY YOUR BOAT**  
HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES





WALPA Conference Field Trip  
Bloedel Donovan Check Station  
October, 2016



# Questions?

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