

**REPORT FOR WISCONSIN DNR GRANT  
NUMBER CB/CW-483-18**

Prepared for the Squash Lake Association

By

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# INTRODUCTION

Squash Lake is a 396-acre, clear-water Seepage Lake with a maximum depth of 74 feet, located in Oneida County approximately 5 miles west of the city of Rhineland. Largemouth bass and walleyes are the dominant game fish in the lake with moderate numbers of smallmouth bass, northern pike, and pan fish. The lake's water clarity is very clear. There are approximately 186 properties around the lake. Visitors have access to the lake from a public boat landing (Gudis Landing) and also two State owned islands.

In 2006, the presence of Eurasian water milfoil was confirmed. Since then the Squash Lake Association has continually making efforts to remove EWM from the lake. It is also continuing efforts to monitor and protect the lake from further introduction of invasive species.

The Squash Lake Association received and sponsored a grant in 2019 (*DNR Grant CB/CW-483-19*). Project activities included:

- Conduct watercraft inspections.
- Hire a CB/CW Coordinator.
- Hire paid watercraft inspectors.
- Continue to offer training of CB/CW volunteer inspectors.
- Entry of watercraft inspection data into SWIMS.
- Oversee AIS education (i.e. signage, information at landing, and contacting boaters at the landing).
- Develop a final report.

The following is a summary of the above activities:

## WATERCRAFT INSPECTION EFFORTS

Due to a late, wet spring, ice remained on the lake until May 14<sup>th</sup> and watercraft inspections were cancelled for the inland fishing season opener. Inspections were conducted on weekends from May 18<sup>th</sup> through September 22<sup>nd</sup> and on holidays (Memorial Day, May 27<sup>th</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day September 2<sup>nd</sup>). Paid inspectors put in 327 hours and volunteers put in 15 hours for a total of 342 hours (See Appendix A). This year saw a big increase in boat traffic at the landing. There were quite a few weekends with sunny skies and warm temperatures. Overall inspectors contacted 880 individuals. This was almost double last year's numbers. 72% of those contacted said their boat had not been used in the past five days and 28% had used their boat. Of the boats used, 12 were used in a waterbody in another county or state. 62 people had been contacted this season.

Thanks to the efforts of the Squash Lake Association members who volunteered and the paid inspectors no new invasive species were introduced into the lake at Gudis Landing.