



Whatcom Boat Inspections: 2020 Program Update

Lake Whatcom Policy Group
December 2, 2020



Aquatic Invasive Species...

- Are non-native plants, animals, and pathogens
- Live primarily in water and are able to thrive in new environments
- Are capable of causing
 - economic loss,
 - environmental damage, and
 - harm to human health.



ZEBRA MUSSEL



QUAGGA MUSSEL



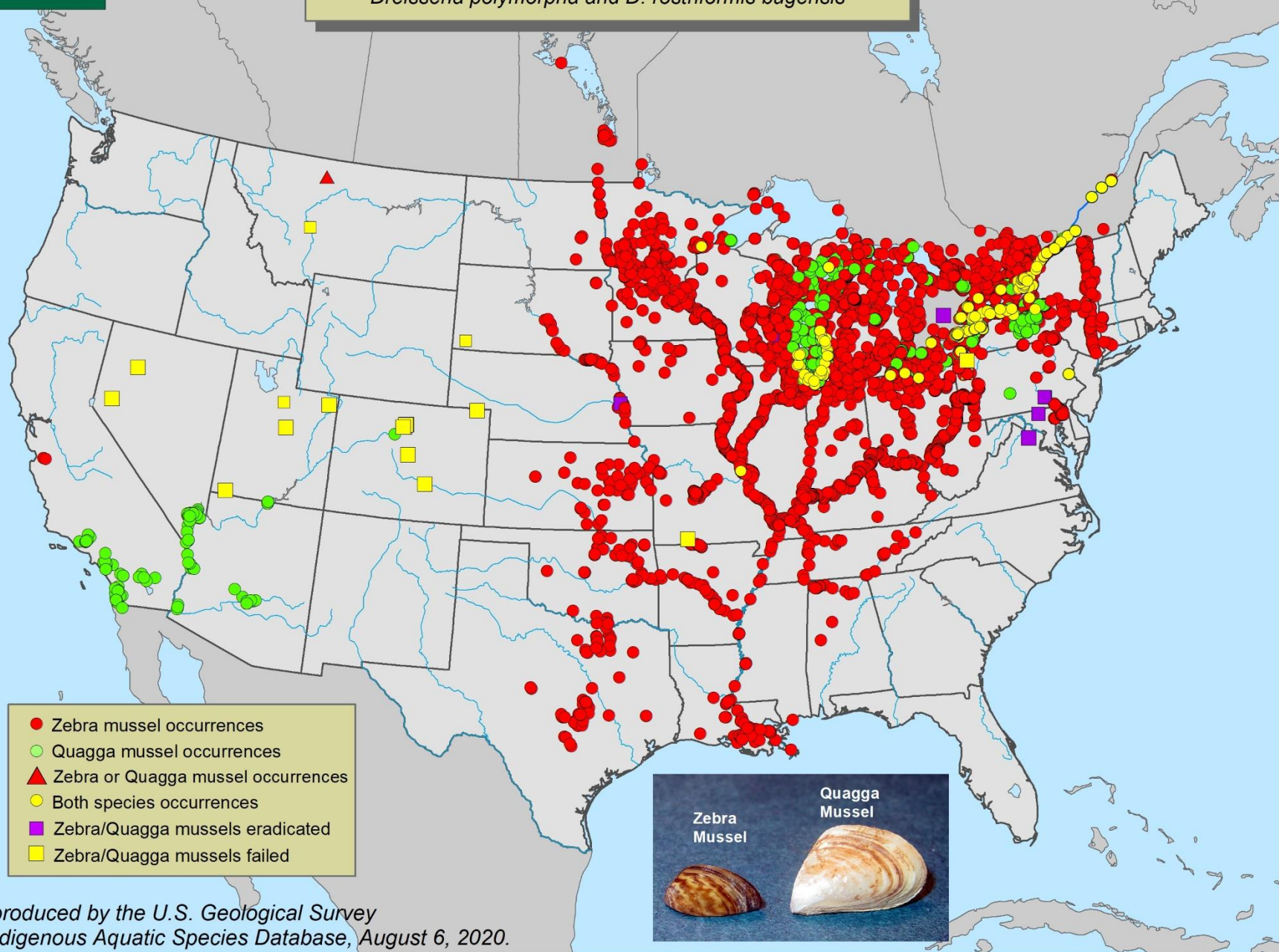


Zebra and Quagga Mussels



Zebra and Quagga Mussel Sightings Distribution

Dreissena polymorpha and *D. rostriformis bugensis*





Inspection Stations in the West

Legend


Highway Watercraft Inspection Stations (public view)

Highway station (single direction) 

Highway station (both directions) 


Highway station (directionality not established) 

Waterbody and Source Watercraft Inspection Stations (public view)


Waterbody station 

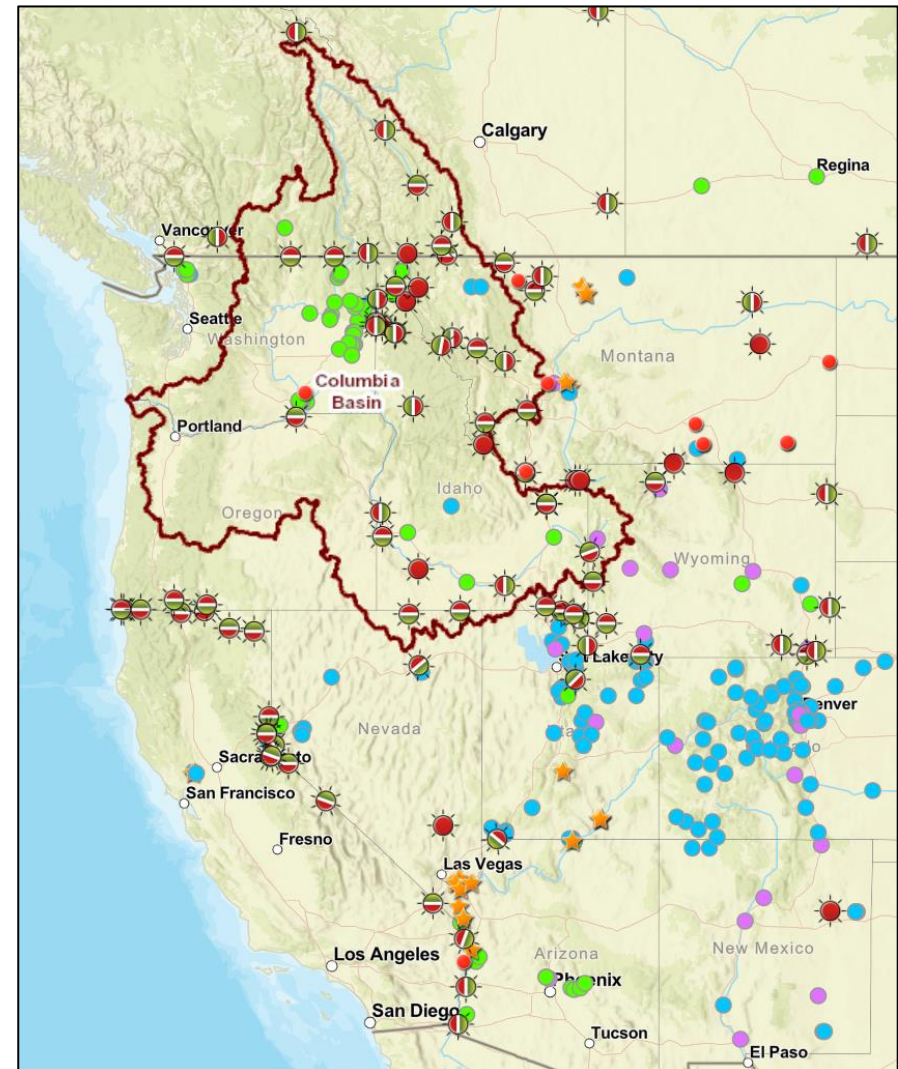
Roving 

Source Decontamination Station 

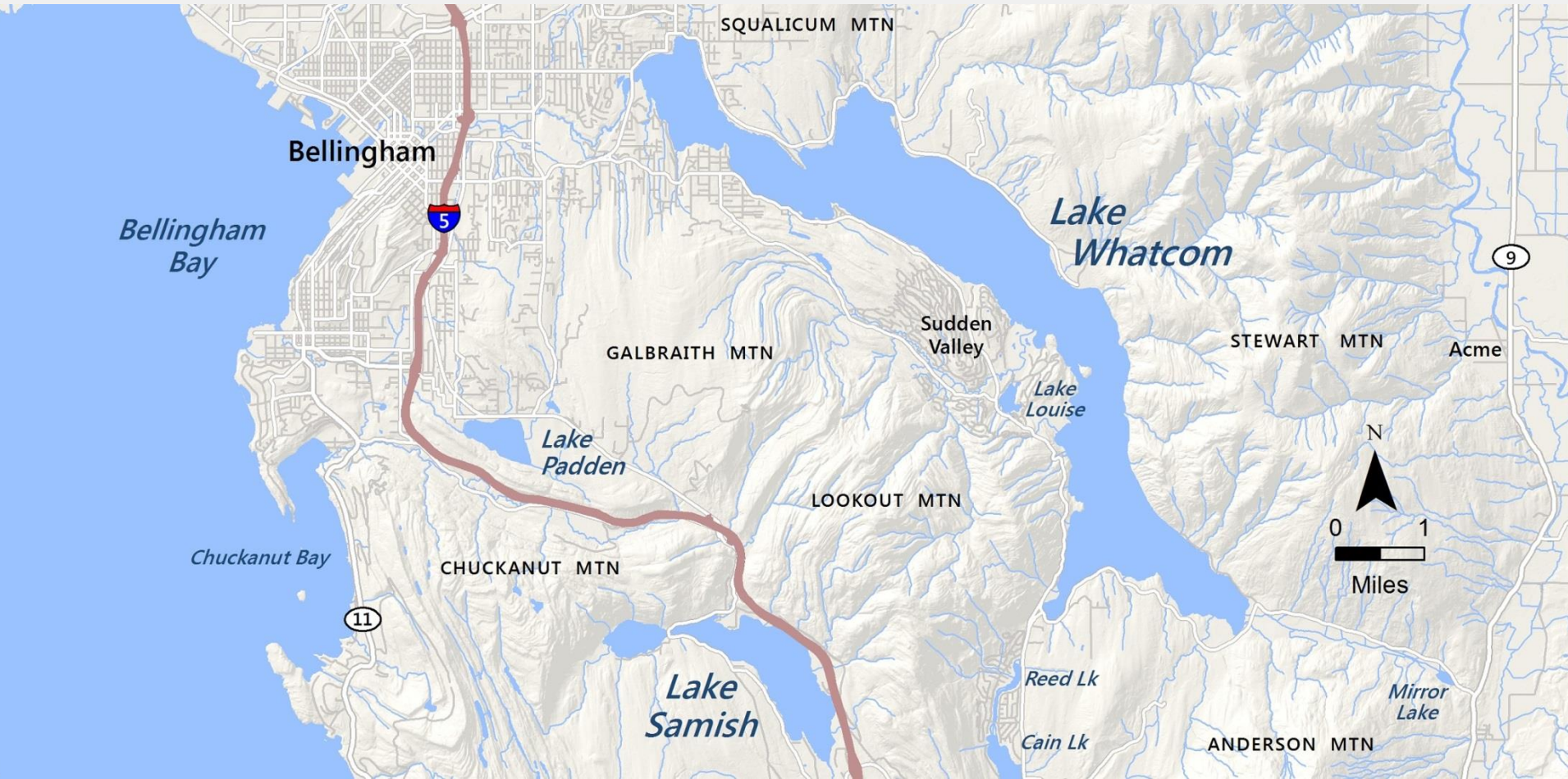
Office location 

Columbia Basin Watershed Boundary

Columbia Basin Boundary 



Whatcom Boat Inspections

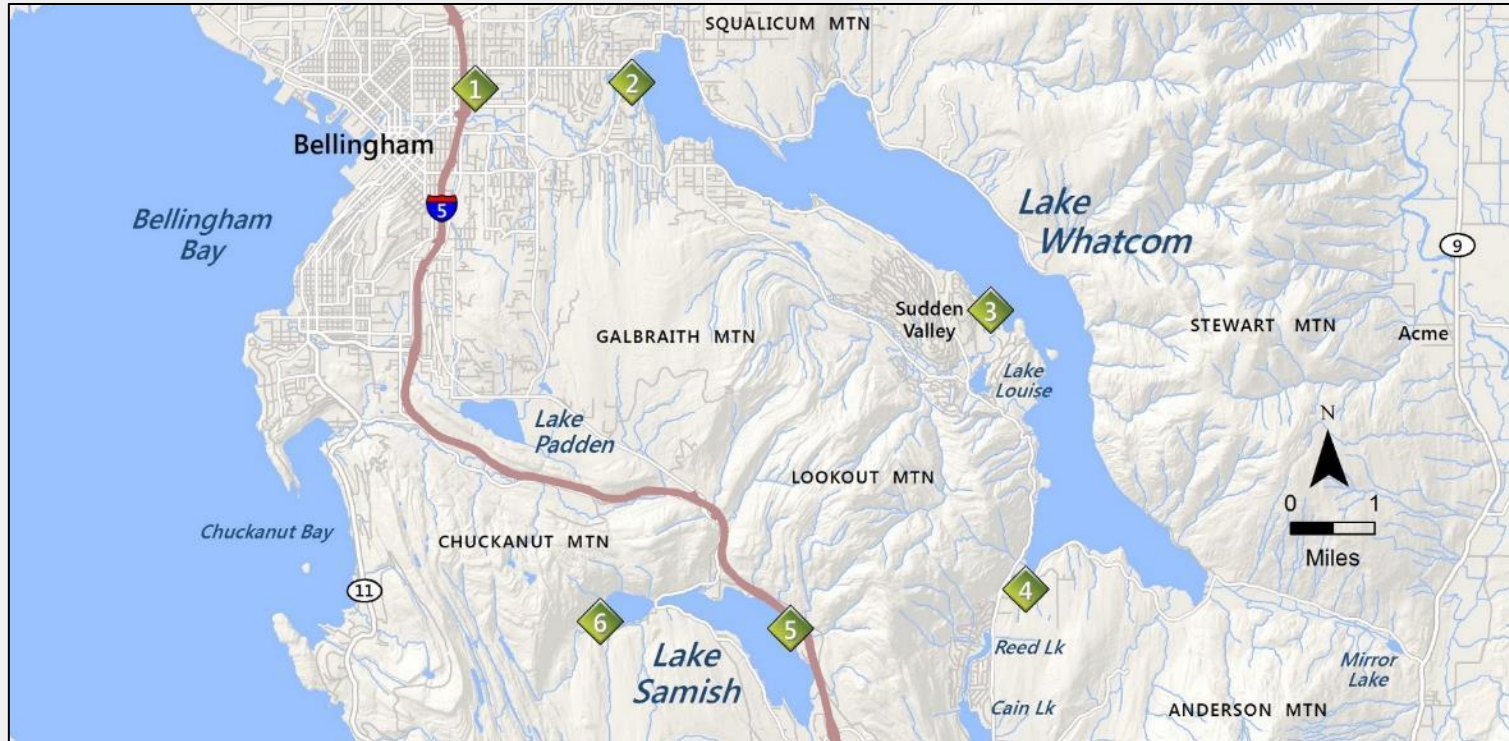


Watercraft Inspections

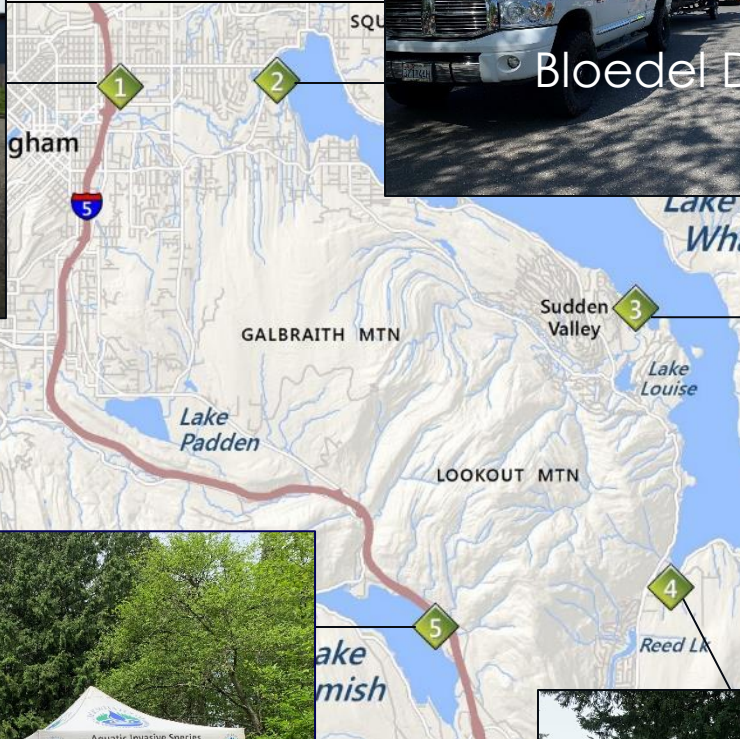
- Mandatory
- Vessel history survey and risk assessment
- Visual and physical inspection
- Clean, drain, dry
- Decontamination
- Educational opportunity



Inspection Locations



Inspection Location



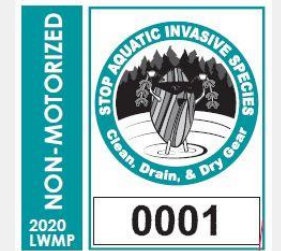
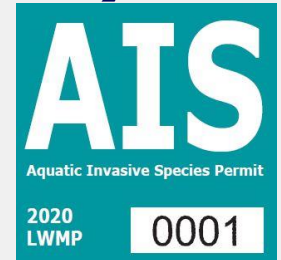
Data Collection

- Online database
 - Boat profile picture
 - Inspection/seal history
 - Built-in risk assessment
 - Waterbody database
- Real-time access to data
- Minimize errors
- Consistent information available across jurisdictions
- More efficient for inspectors and boaters



AIS Permits & Service Charges (COVID-19)

Vessel Type	Permit Options/Fees
Registered	Annual Permit (\$60)- \$50 3-Day Pass (\$20) 1-Day Pass (\$10)
Non-Registered, Motorized	Annual Permit (\$30)- \$20 3-Day Pass (\$20) 1-Day Pass (\$10)
Non-Motorized, Hand-Carried	Annual Permit (\$10)- \$0

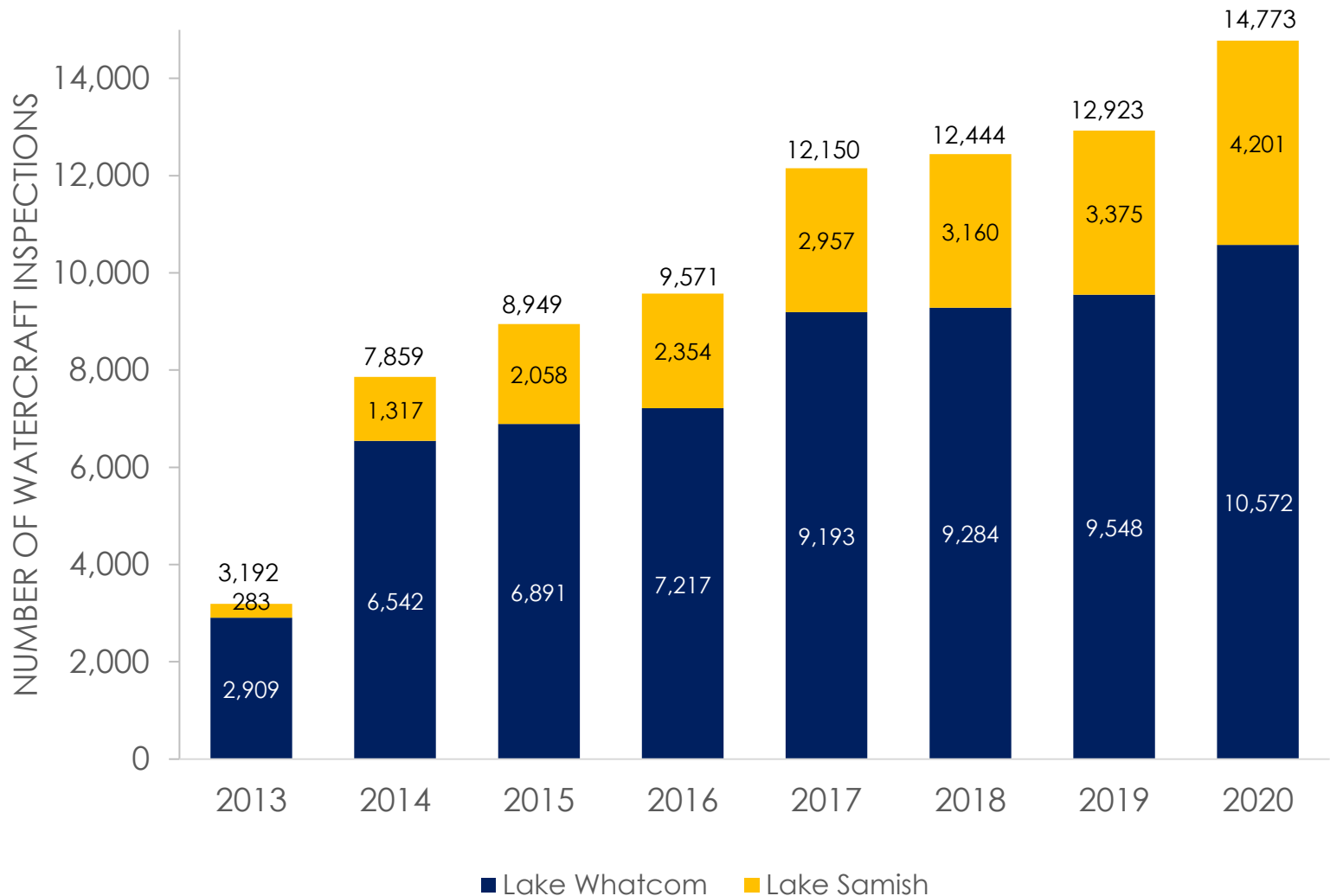


COVID-19 Response

- New inspection and safety protocols
 - Assigned roles
 - PPE
- Online payments
- Online training
- Delayed start
- Increased traffic
- No Canadian traffic
- Outreach challenges



Annual total number of watercraft inspections conducted by Aquatic Invasive Species Program 2013–2020



Whatcom Boat Inspection Program highlights, 2020



19 INSPECTORS
— AT —
4 LAUNCHES

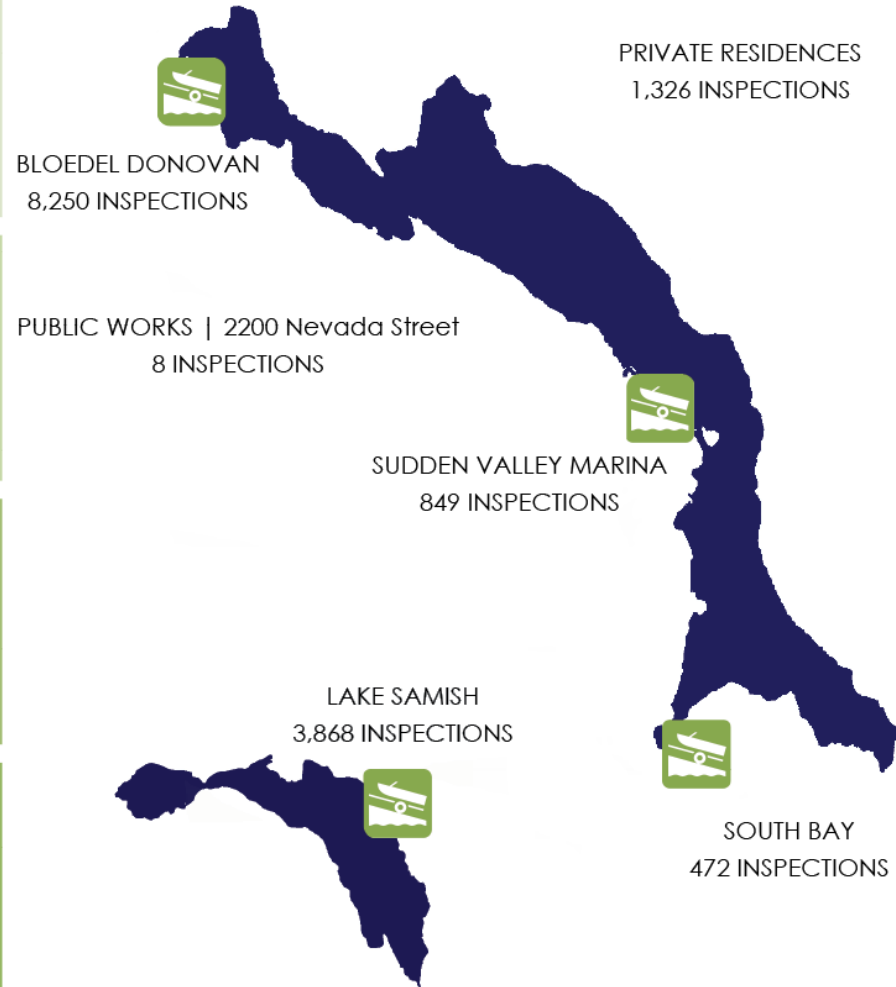
14,773
BOATS
INSPECTED



1,186
VISITORS

970 
BOATS CARRIED
STANDING WATER
that had to be drained

231 BOATS CARRIED
AQUATIC
PLANTS
that had to be removed

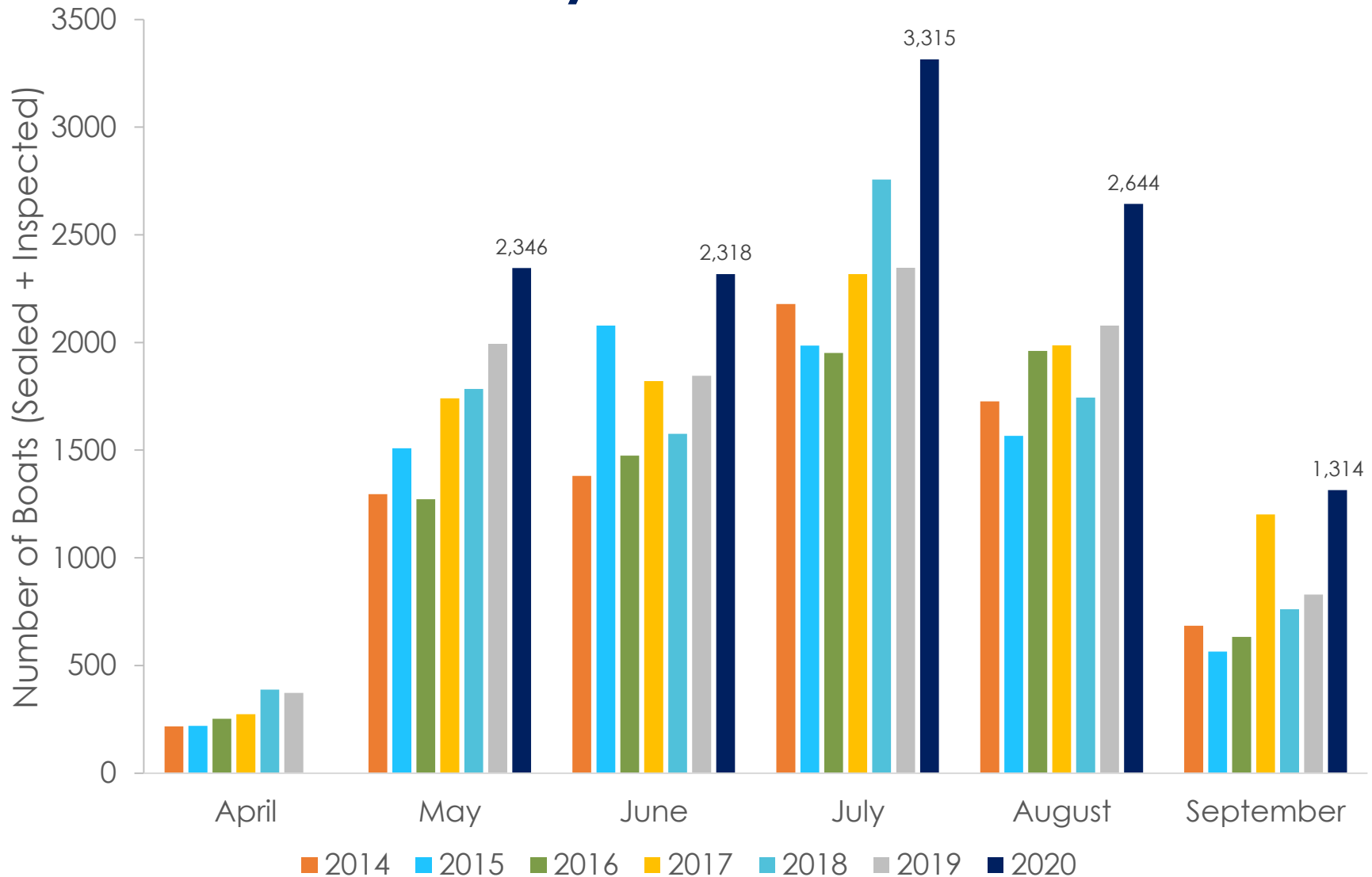


Bloedel Donovan

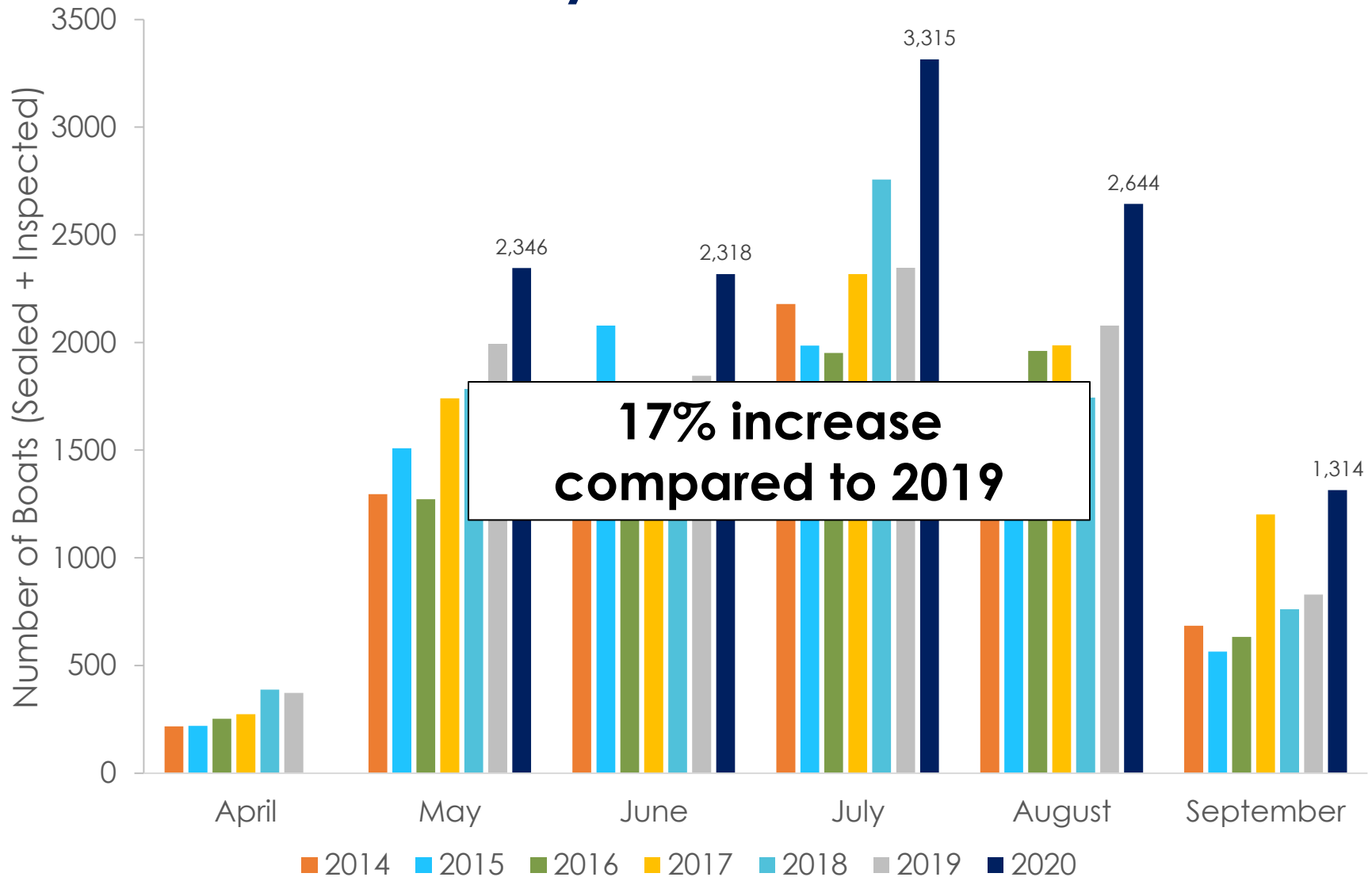
- Opened 5/5/2020
- 7 days a week
- Dawn to dusk
- 8,250 inspections
- Busiest Day: 7/26/2020
 - 256 boats



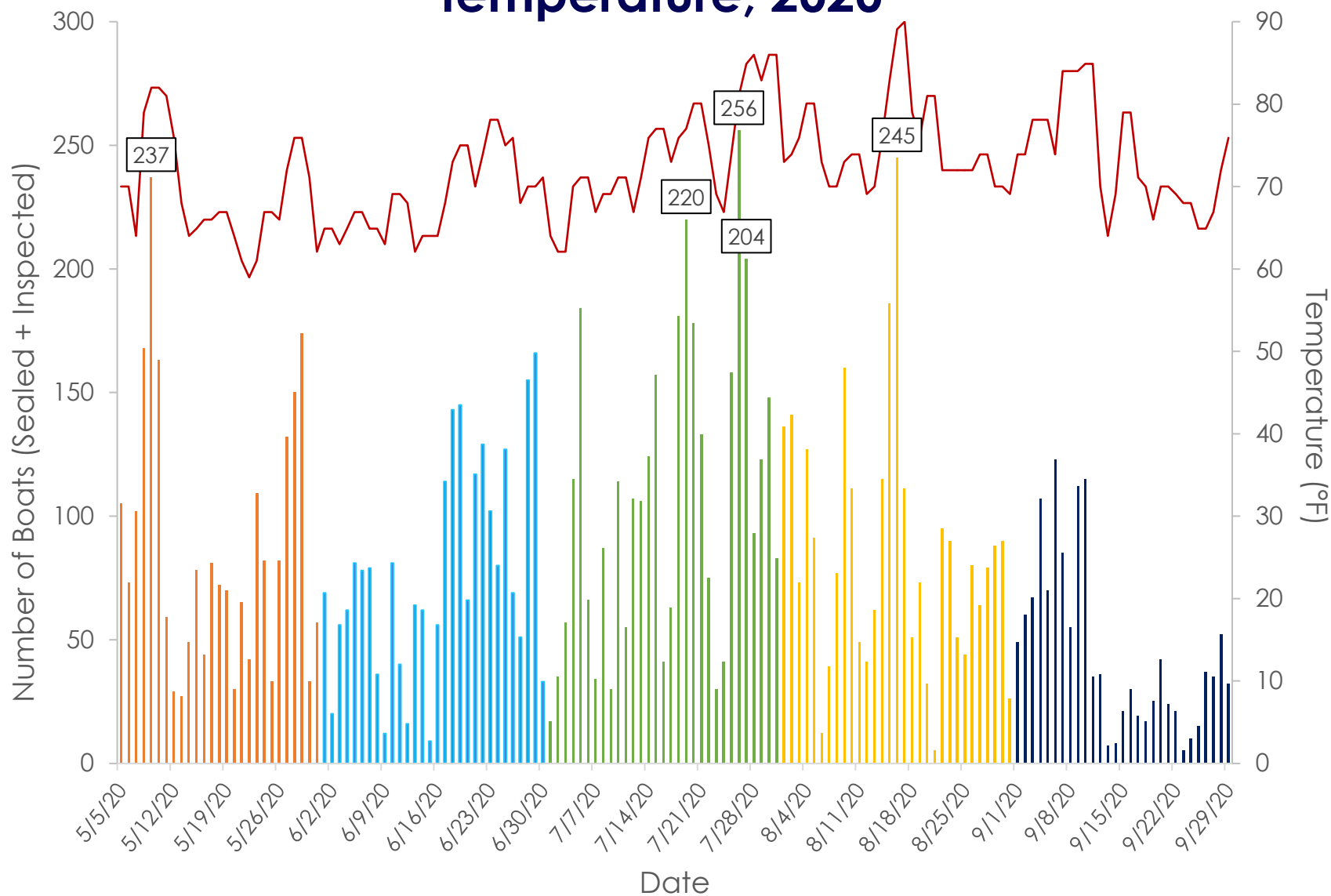
Number of boats launching at Bloedel Donovan by month, 2014–2020



Number of boats launching at Bloedel Donovan by month, 2014–2020



Number of boats launching at Bloedel Donovan with temperature, 2020



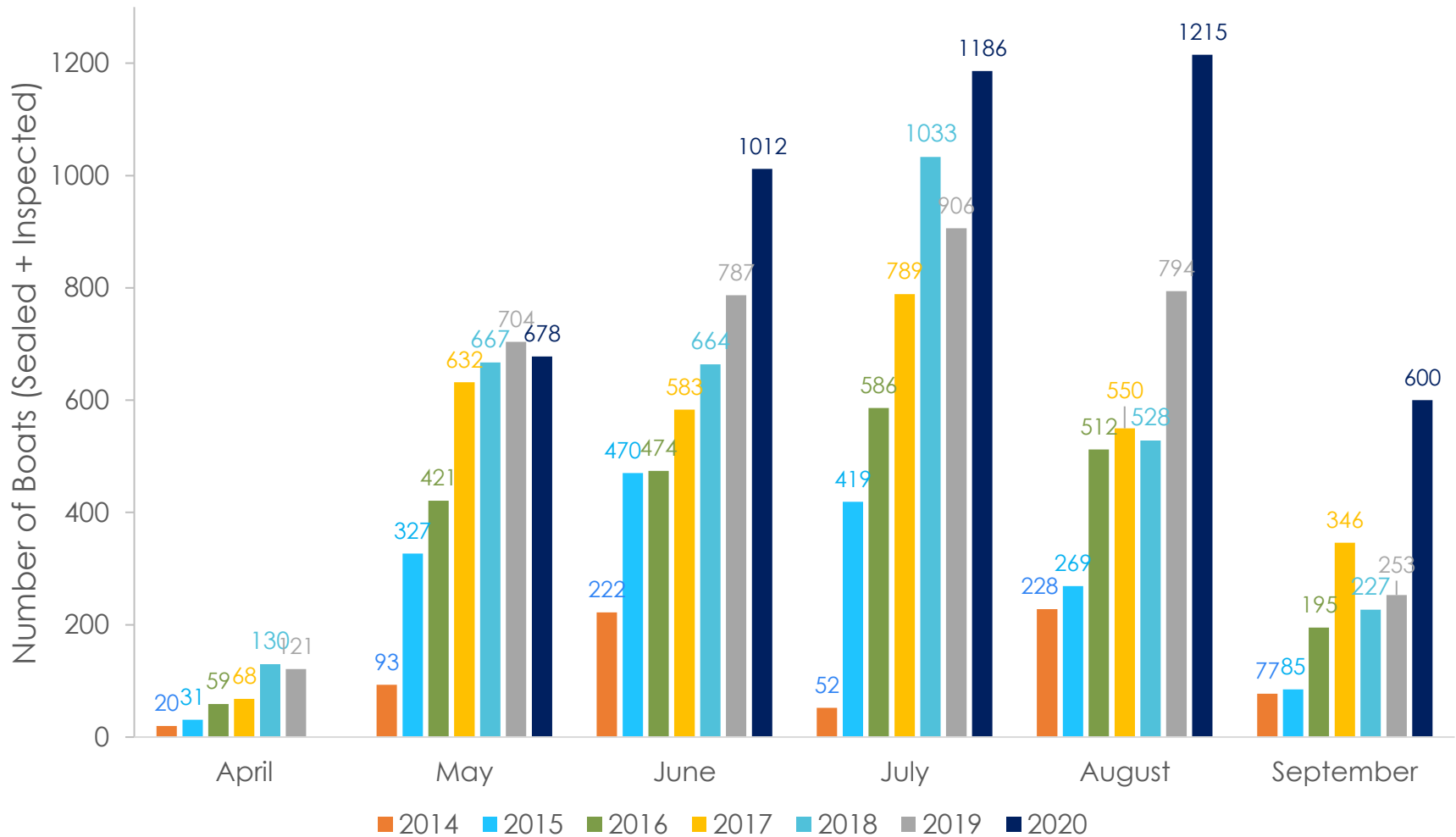
Samish WDFW Launch

- Opened 5/12/2020
- 7 days a week
- Dawn to dusk
- 3,868 inspections
- Busiest Day: 8/16/2020
 - 135 boats

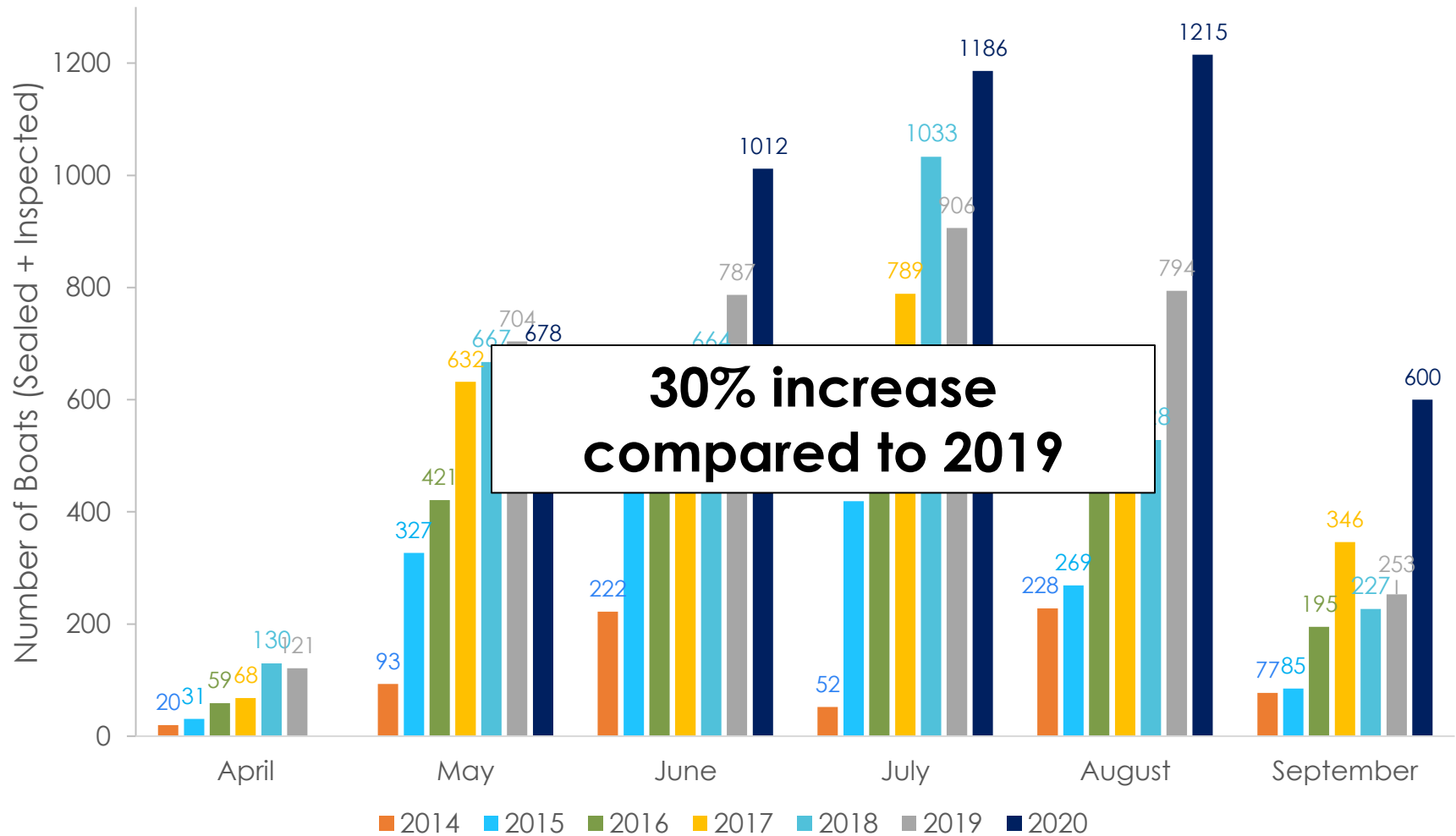


Number of boats launching at Samish WDFW

Launch by month, 2014–2020



Number of boats launching at Samish WDFW Launch by month, 2014–2020

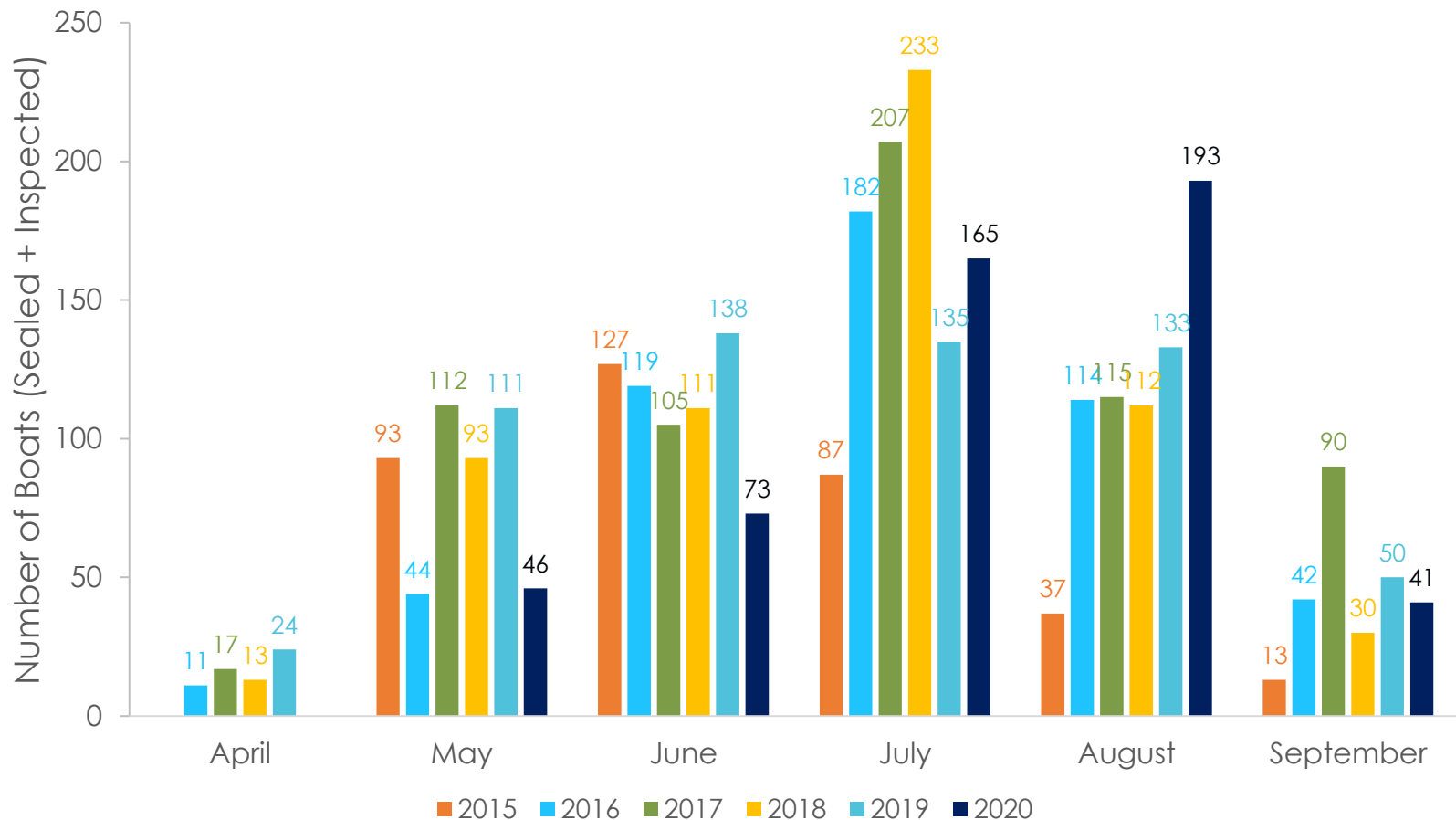


South Bay WDFW Launch

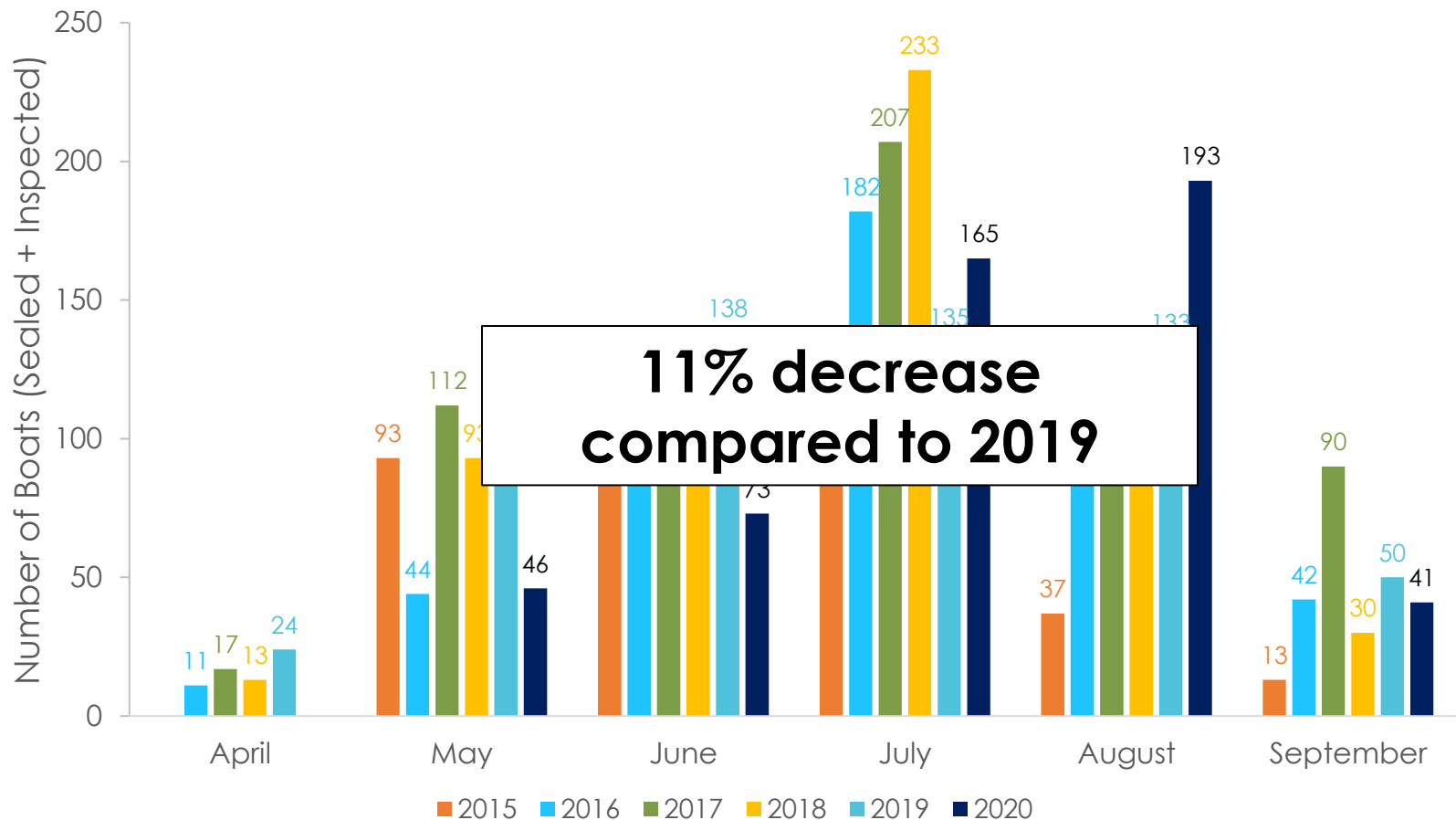
- Opened 5/23/2020
- Weekends
- 10am – 5pm
- 472 inspections
- Busiest Day: 8/16/2020
 - 59 boats



Number of boats launching at South Bay WDFW Launch by month, 2015–2020

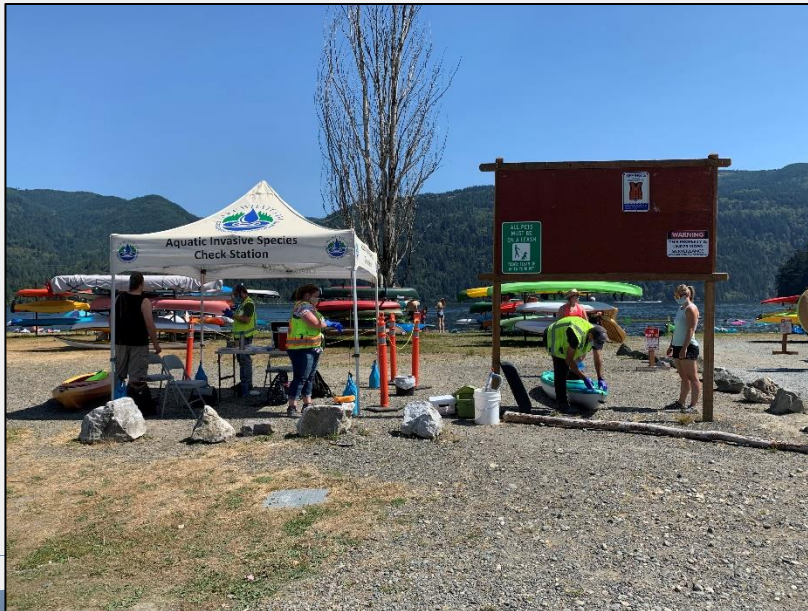


Number of boats launching at South Bay WDFW Launch by month, 2015–2020

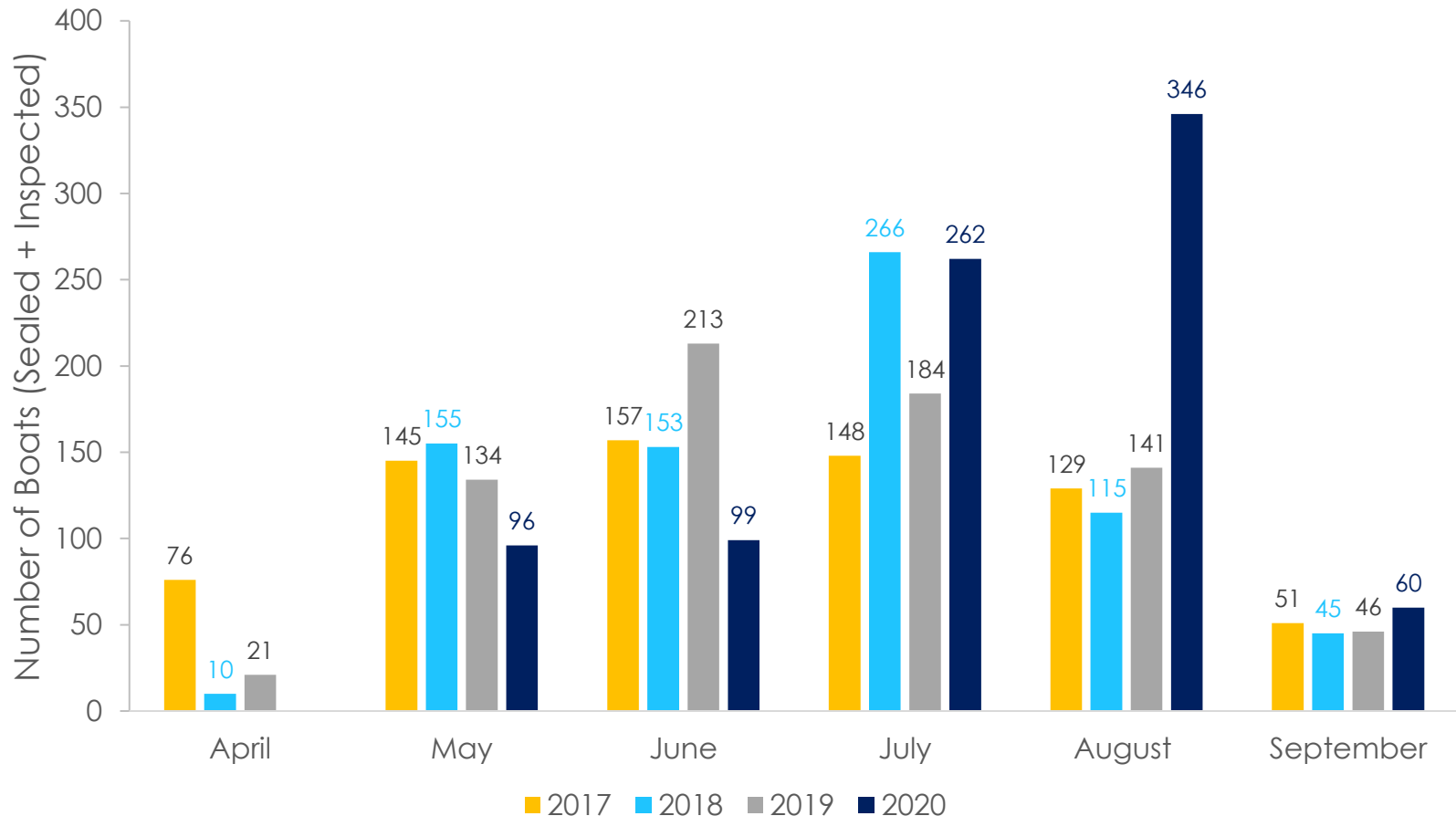


Sudden Valley Marina

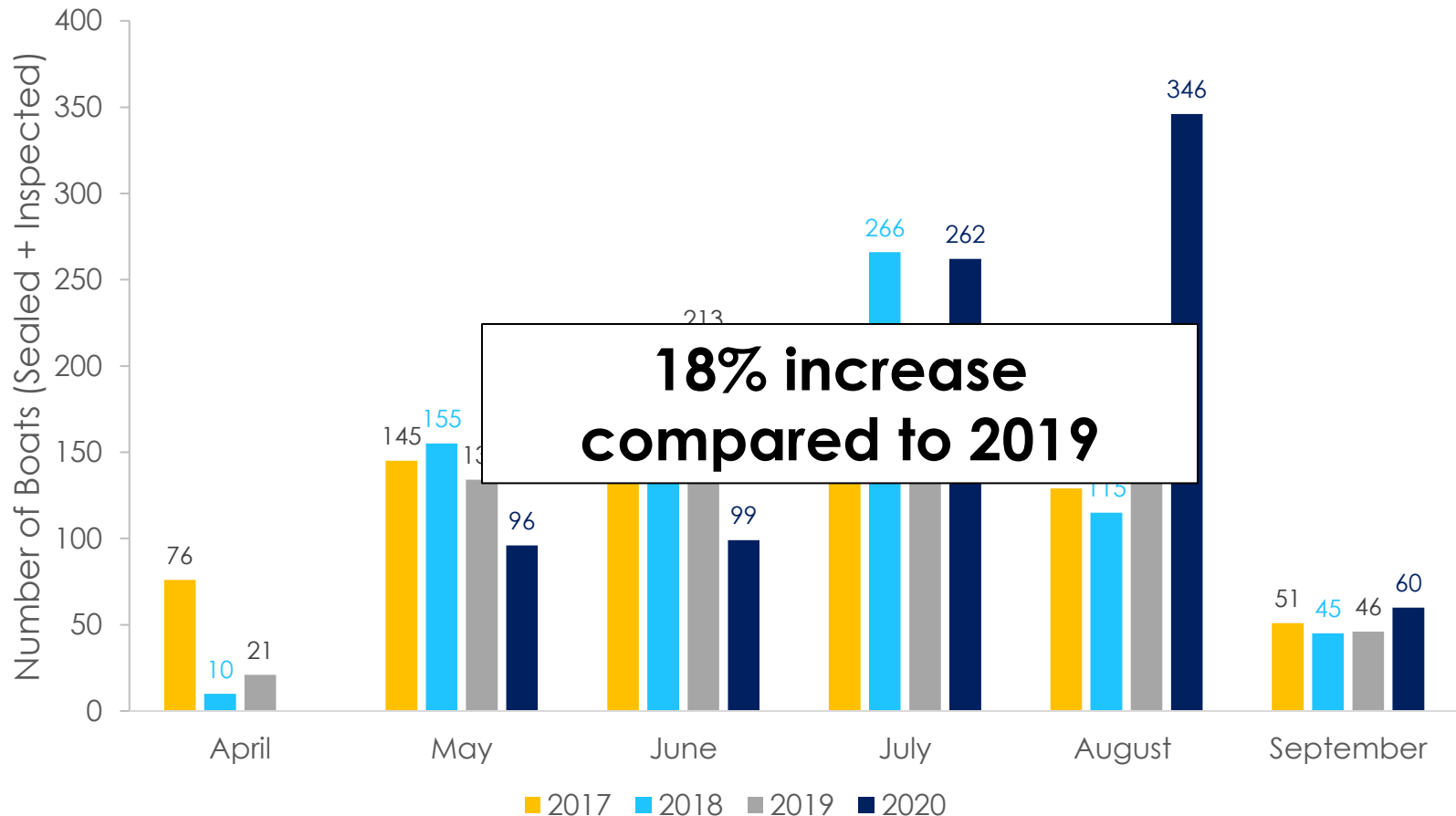
- Opened 5/16/2020
- Weekends
- 9am – 4pm
- 849 inspections
- Busiest Day: 8/16/2020
 - 79 boats



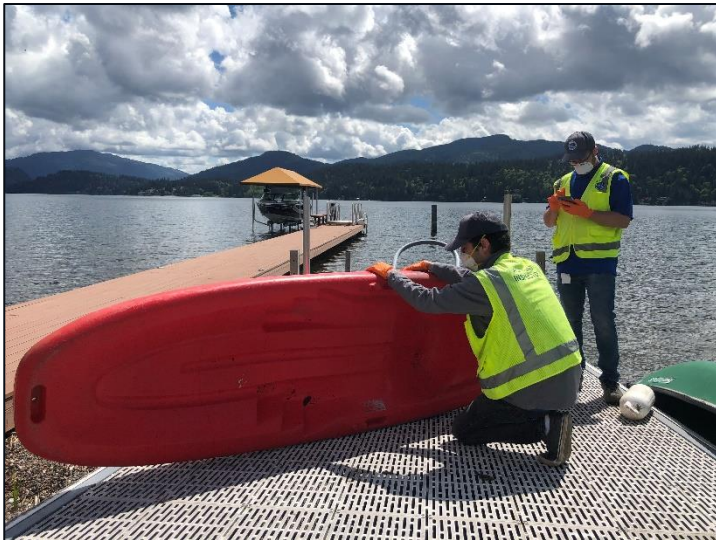
Number of boats launching at Sudden Valley Marina by month, 2017–2020



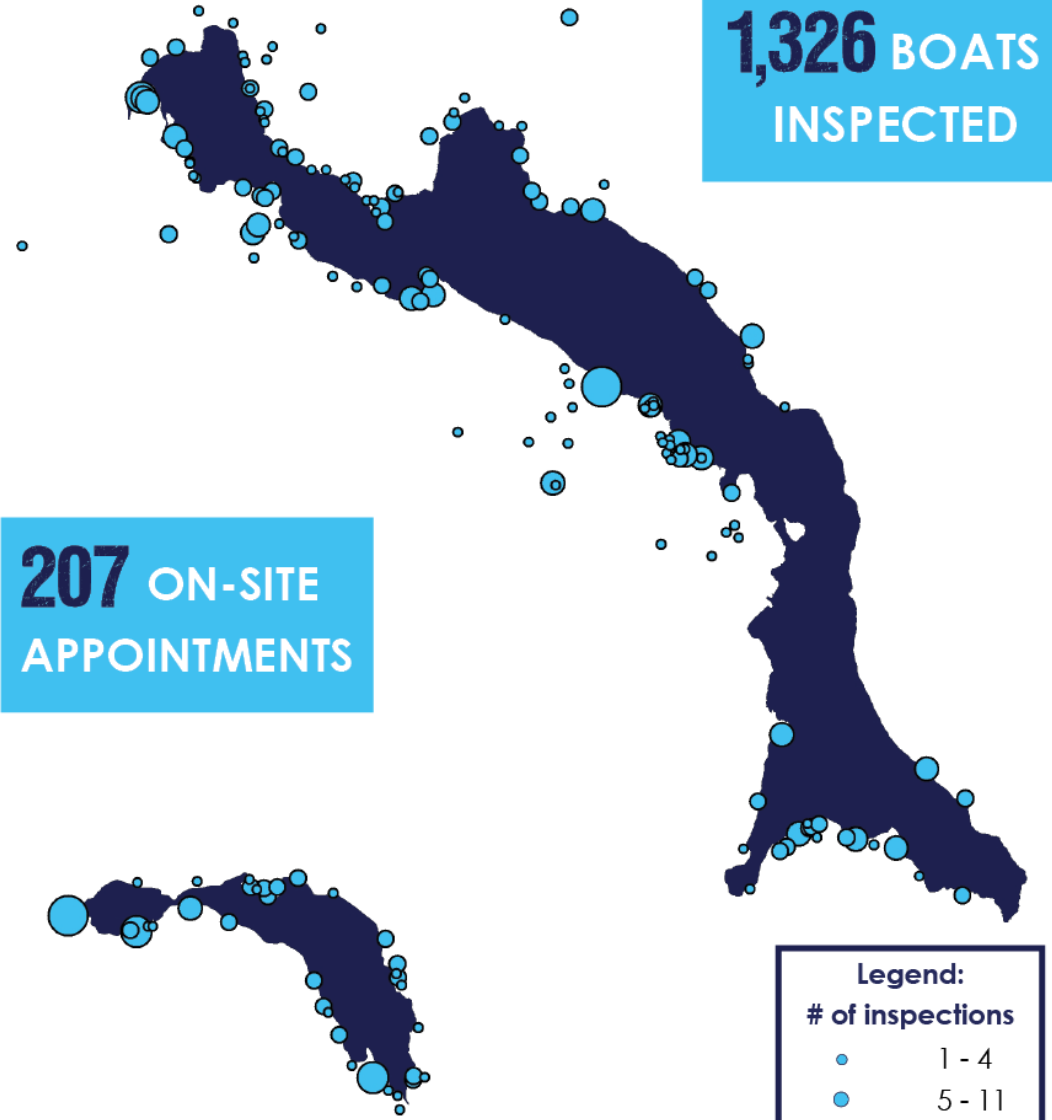
Number of boats launching at Sudden Valley Marina by month, 2017–2020



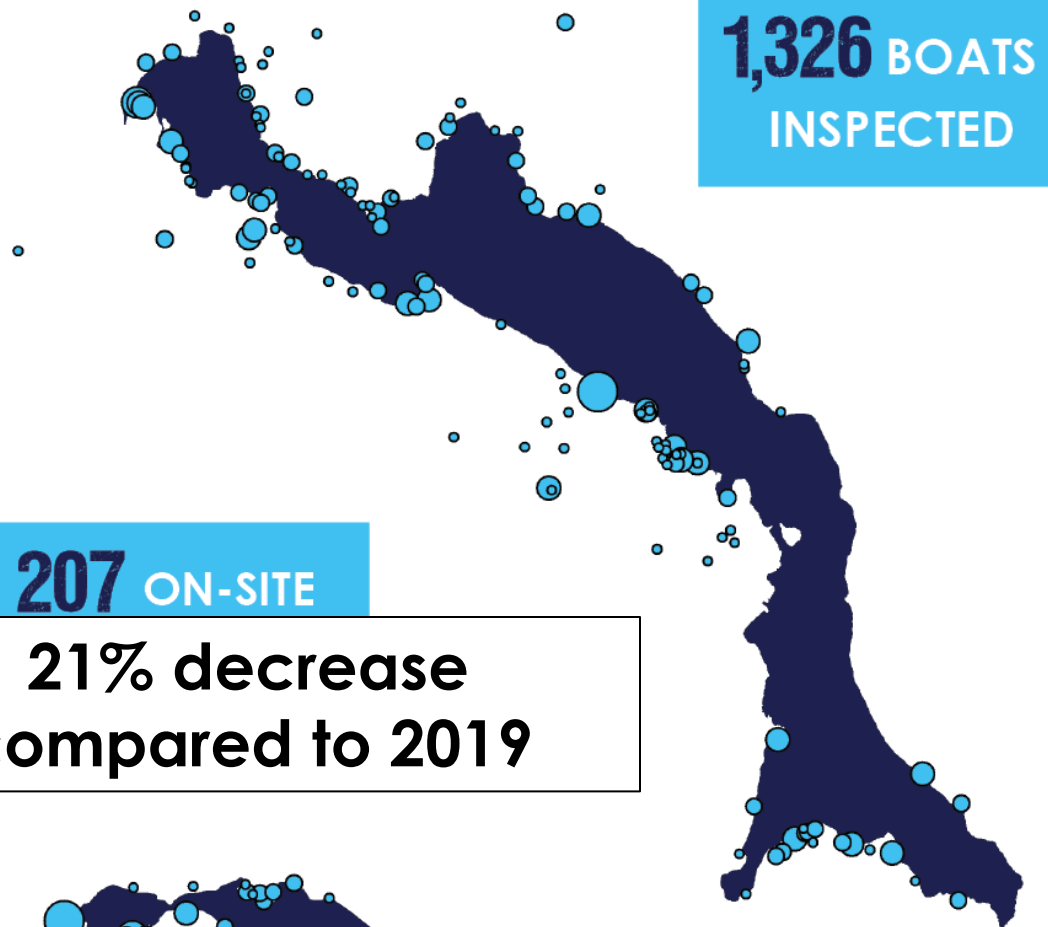
On-Site Watercraft Inspections



207 ON-SITE
APPOINTMENTS



On-Site Watercraft Inspections



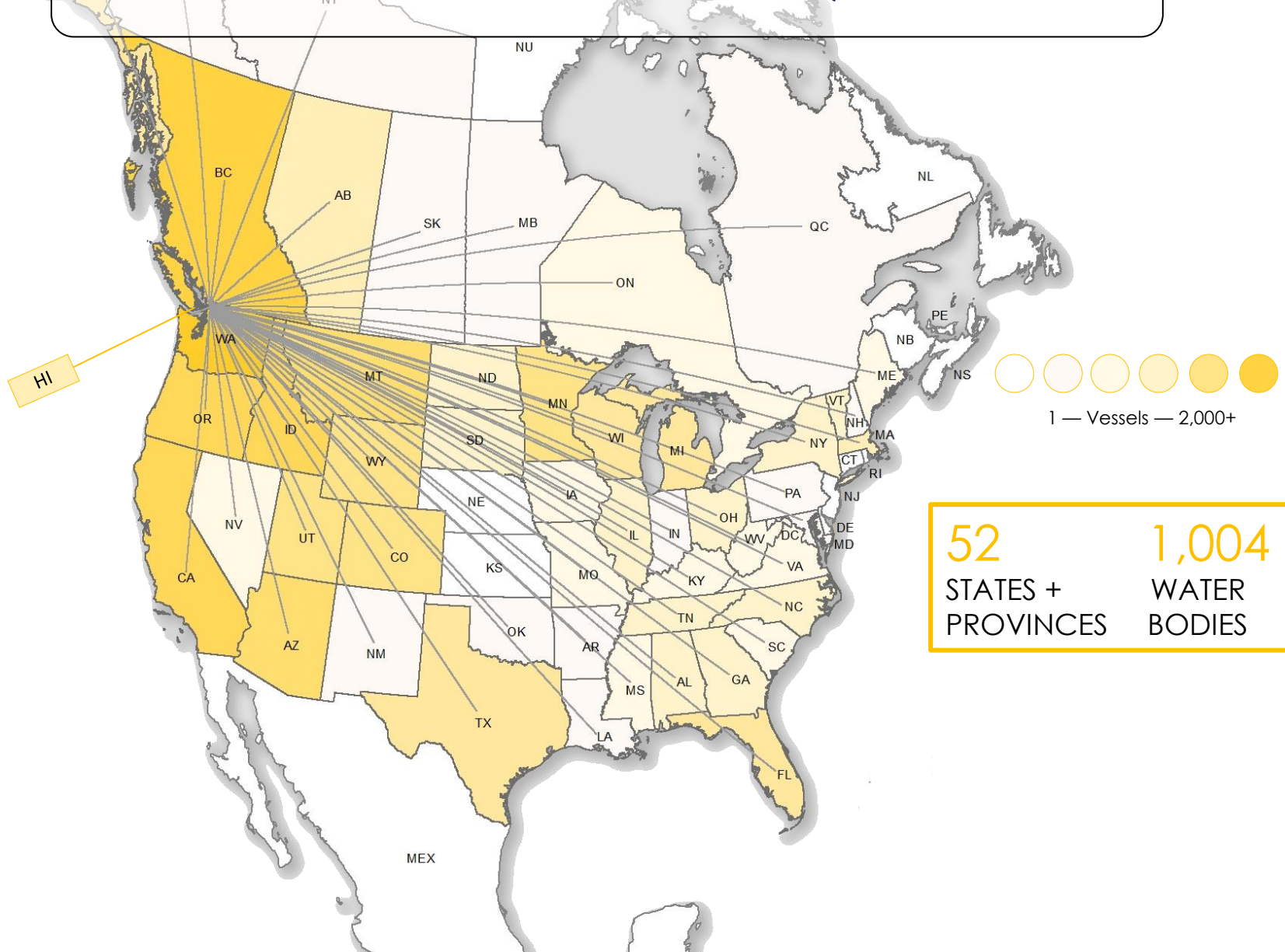
207 ON-SITE

**21% decrease
compared to 2019**



Legend: # of inspections	
●	1 - 4
●	5 - 11
●	12 - 24
●	25 - 44
●	45 - 75

Previous water bodies visited by vessels launching at Lake Whatcom or Lake Samish, 2020



What did we find?

- 1,711 (11%) boats required additional attention
 - Standing Water/Wet: 970
 - Vegetation: 231
 - Full Decontamination: 6
- High Risk Boats:
 - 19 boats had last launched in mussel infested water bodies
 - 270 boats had previously launched in or nearby mussel infested water bodies



Decontaminations



- Washington Boat – June 26
 - Recent use in Lake Powell, AZ
 - **Species: Quagga Mussels**
 - Soaked anchor, rudder, lines and flushed sink, cockpit, motor, and exterior



- Texas Boat – July 26
 - Dallas, TX
 - **Species: Zebra Mussels**
 - Standing water in engine compartment
 - Flushed interior compartments, engine, and hot washed exterior

Decontaminations



- Nevada Boat – August 11
 - Lake Mead, NV
 - **Species: Quagga Mussels**
 - Standing water in engine compartment and in ballast bags/tanks
 - Flushed ballast tanks and bladders, engine flush, soaked gear/lines, pressure washed exterior



- Arizona Boat – September 22
 - Canyon Lake, Saguaro Reservoir, Theodore Roosevelt Reservoir, AZ
 - **Species: Quagga Mussels**
 - Complex houseboat
 - Flushed engine, soaked anchors/lines, pressure washed exterior

Wire Seal Program



BLOEDEL DONOVAN

8,369

INTERACTIONS

1,585 BOATS
Participated

LAKE SAMISH

1,807

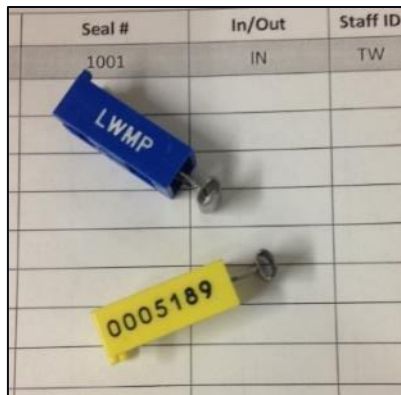
INTERACTIONS

SOUTH BAY

86

INTERACTIONS

- Express pass for boaters returning to the same lake
- More efficient
- Educational opportunity
- 10,317 additional interactions



Education & Outreach

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



Whatcom Boat Inspections

Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Course



Take the Online Course Today: www.whatcomboatinspections.com

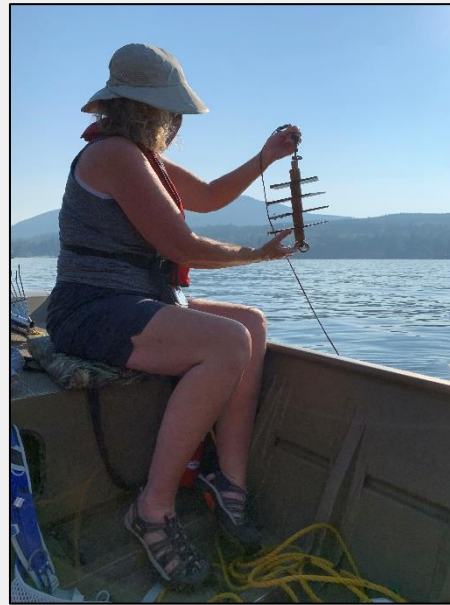
Events

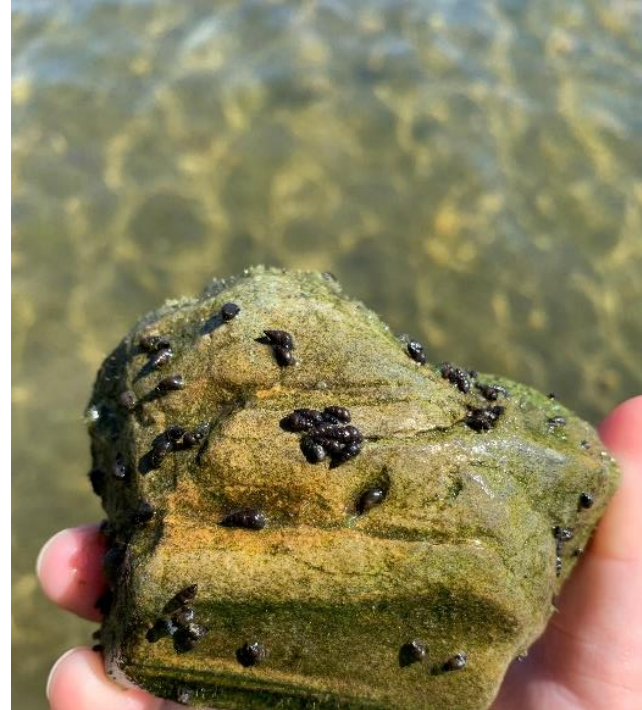
- Bass Tournaments
- Float Plane Fly-In
- Paddling Events
- Lake Padden – New Zealand
Mudsnail outreach
- Rowing Clubs



Early Detection & Monitoring

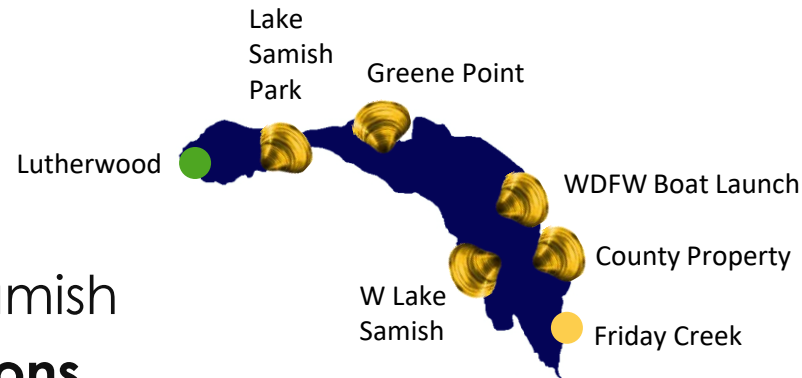
- New species
 - Mussel monitoring
 - Artificial substrates
 - Plankton tows
 - eDNA
- Existing species
 - Shoreline monitoring
 - Aquatic plant surveys
 - Extent of infestation
 - Density
 - Management options





Lake Samish: Asian Clams

- Invasive Asian clams confirmed on 8/16/2019 at Lake Samish WDFW Boat Launch
- First documented sighting in Lake Samish
- **Four additional established populations confirmed in 2020**



- Less than 5 cm
- Densities of up to 50,000/m²
- Reproduce asexually
- Outcompete native species
- Prohibited species in WA
- Spread in standing water in live wells, bilge areas, and ballast tanks/bladders



Lake Padden: New Zealand mudsnails

- Invasive New Zealand mudsnails confirmed on 9/10/2018 at Lake Padden
- First sighting in Whatcom County
- Confirmed at Squalicum Creek on 10/14/2020

- Less than 5 mm
- Densities of up to 500,000/m²
- Reproduce by cloning
- Outcompete native species
- Prohibited species in WA
- Spread on gear, equipment, watercraft, and pets





Questions?

Presented by:

Teagan Ward, City of Bellingham – Natural Resources, teward@cob.org

Web: www.whatcomboatinspections.com