

The background of the slide is a scenic photograph of a wide river, likely the Upper Mississippi River, flowing through a landscape. In the foreground, there are several trees with green and yellowing leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The river is blue and stretches towards the horizon under a clear sky. The text is overlaid on this image.

Upper Mississippi River NW&FR

Implementation of the 2006 CCP

Eric Nelson

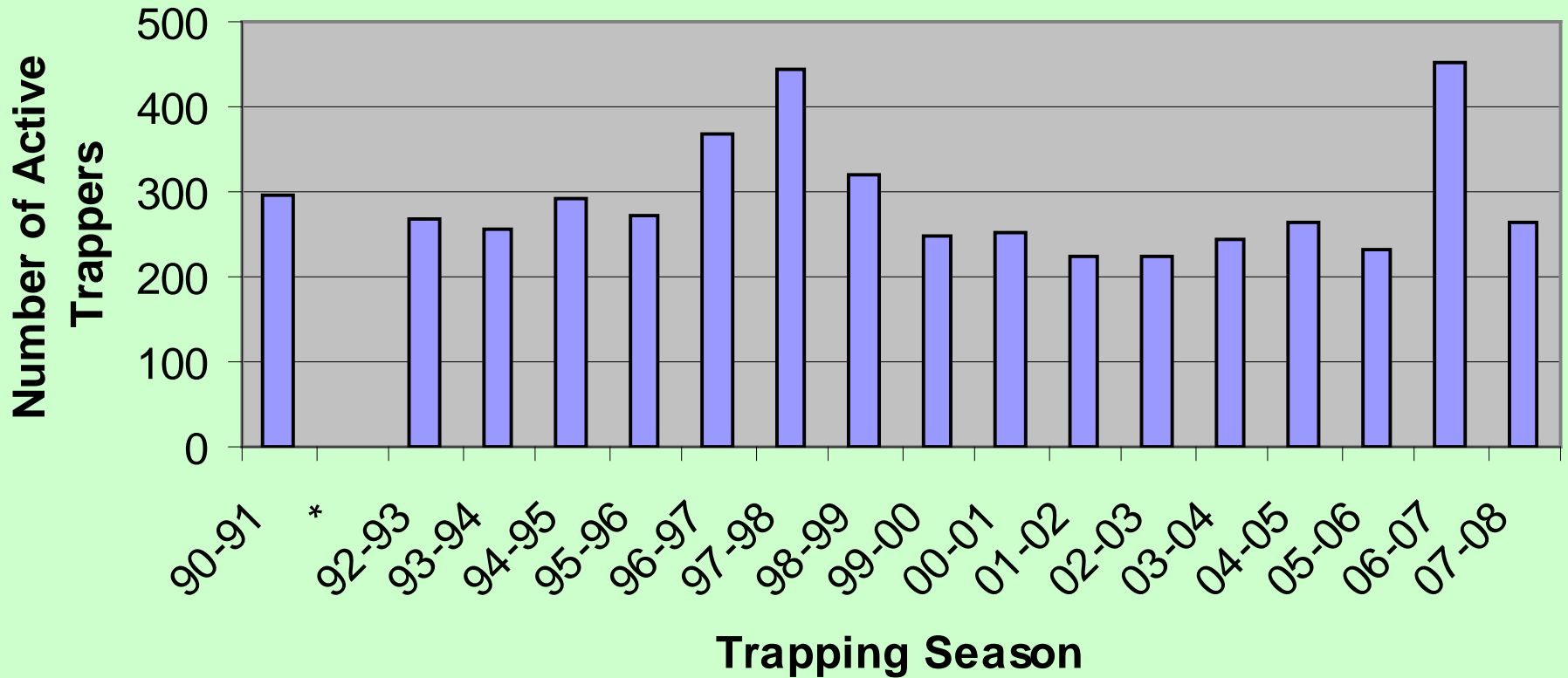
**Refuge biologist,
Winona MN**

- **Furbearer Management**
- **Waterfowl Management**
- **Recreational Use**

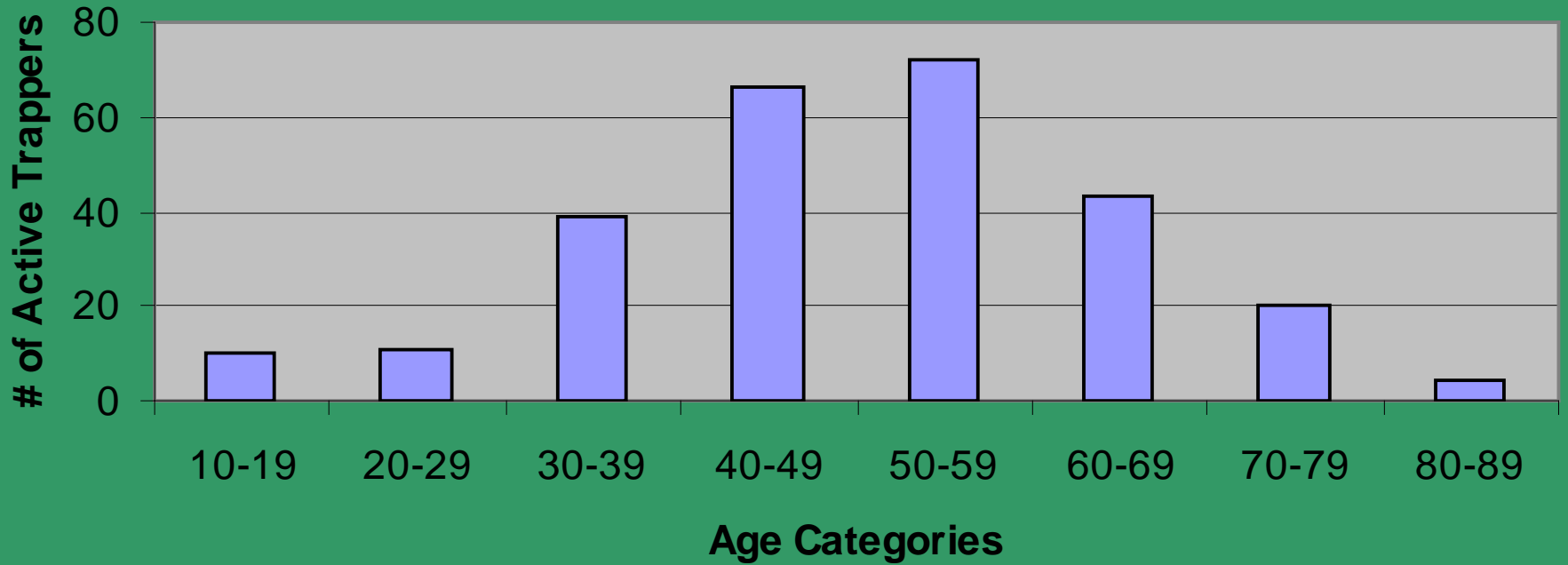
Upper Miss Trapping Program

- **Furbearer Management Plan – approved Sept 2007**
- **10-year Plan**
- **Goals: Healthy populations; protect refuge infrastructure; continue traditional recreational use**
- **Contact: Brian Stemper, HQ in Winona MN**
- **Existing trapping program remains the same, with 2 significant changes:**
 1. **Fee is \$30.00, was \$20.00; remains \$20,00 for under 18 yrs old.**
 2. **Limit of one otter per trapper per season on refuge**

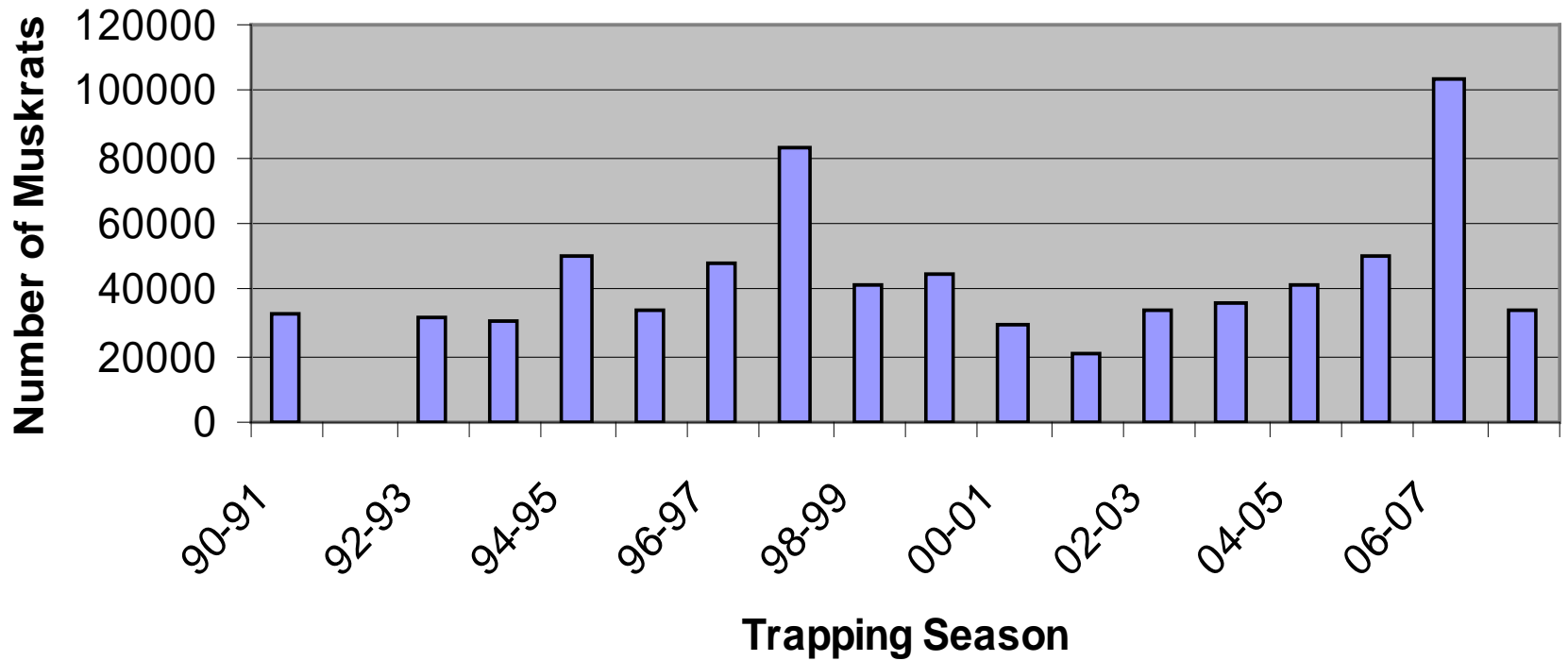
Number of Active Trappers on the UMRNW&FR



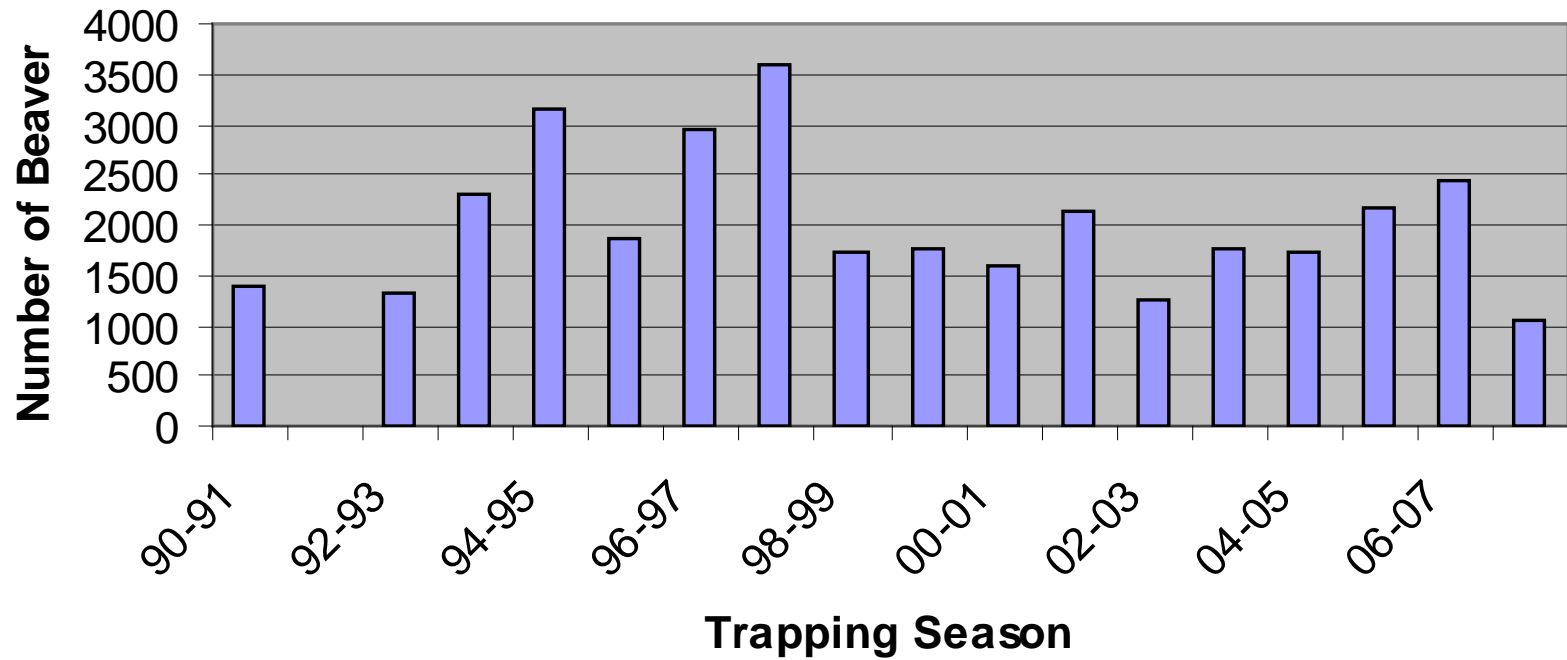
Age Structure of Active Refuge Trappers for the 2007-08 Season



Number of Muskrats Trapped on the UMRNW&FR



Number of Beaver Trapped on the UMRNW&FR



Year

Number

State with Season

07-08

26

WI, MN, IA

*Upper
Miss
Refuge :
Otter
Harvest*

Upper Miss Waterfowl Management

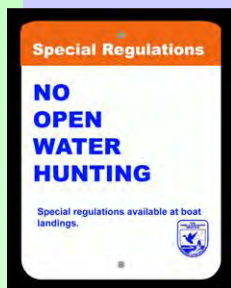
- **Closed Areas**

- **Goals: provide secure resting and feeding areas for waterfowl; enhance hunting**
 - **Implemented Fall of 2007**

Regulations

No Open Water Hunting in Lower Pool 11, fall of 2007

News Release - clarification



**Phase out Permanent Hunting Blinds –
Savanna district**

Pool 12 and Pool 14 gone

Pool 13 after this year

Upper Miss Waterfowl Management

- **Potter's Marsh Managed Hunt Pool 13**
 - **Goals: reduce admin costs**
 - **Provide equitable hunting experience**
 - **Admin changes made in 2006**
- **No permanent blinds after this year; go to boat blinds**

Gibb's Lake – Pool 7

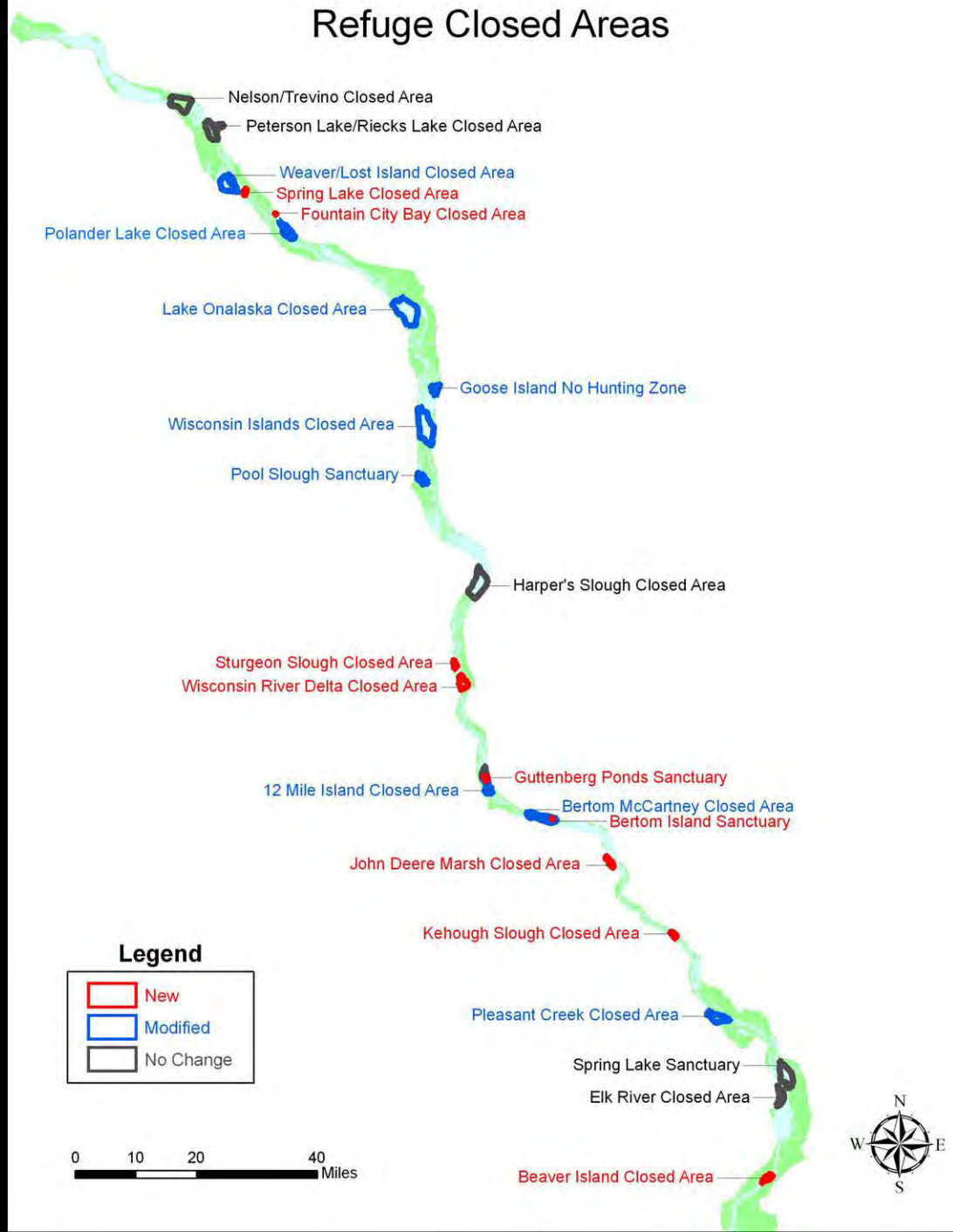
Concern: overcrowding, skybusting

Final Decision: No change to existing hunting

Closed Area Locations

Now: 23 units; were 15

Now: 43,652 acres; were 44,544 acres



All closed areas: **Voluntary Avoidance**,
October 15 to end of duck season.

Closed areas < 1000 acres: **No Motor Use**,
October 15 to end of duck season.





MONITORING BOATING DISTURBANCE WITHIN THE WISCONSIN ISLANDS CLOSED AREA

Kevin Kenow and Brian Gray

Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center

Information recorded for each “boating event” observed (i.e., presence of a boat within lower Pool 8)

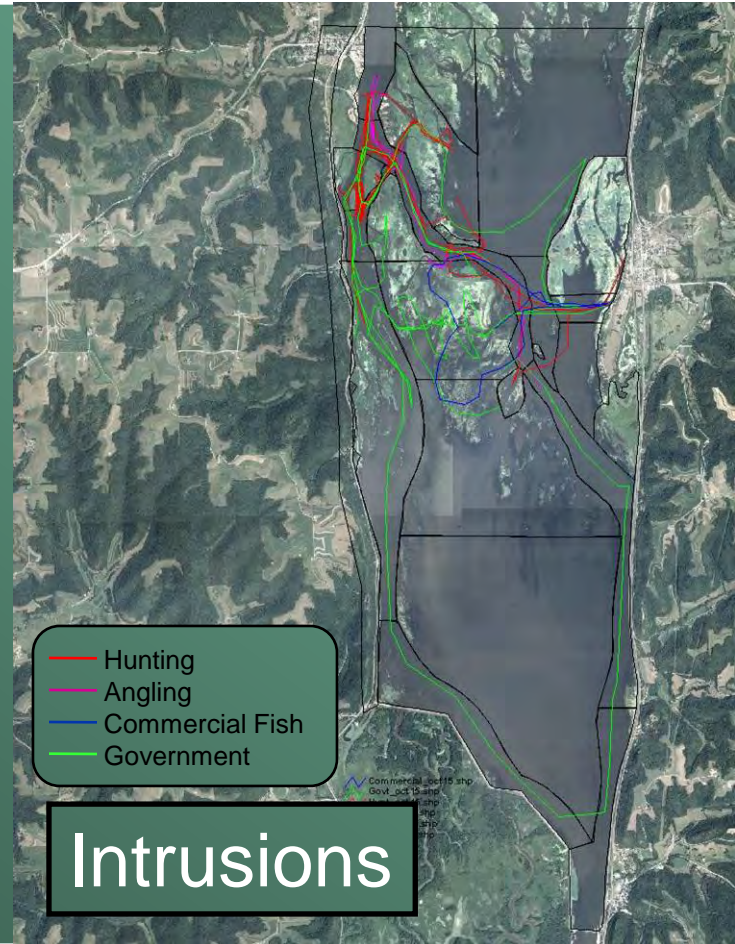
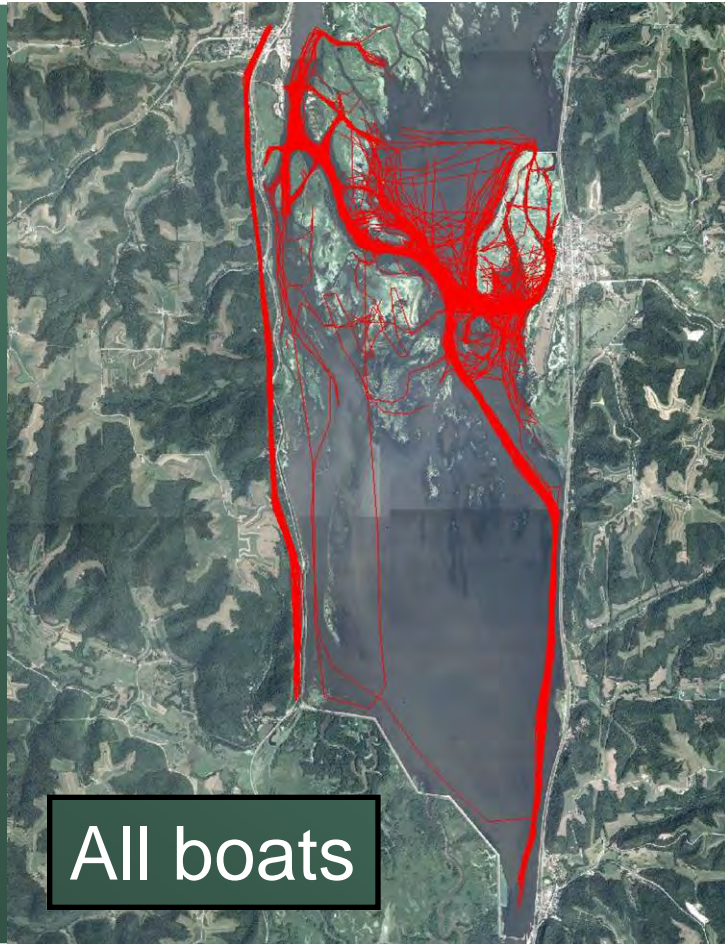


- date and time
- boat origin and destination along with diagram of boat route
- whether the boat entered the WICA
- watercraft type/ boater activity
- speed category of the boat
- amount of disturbance caused to waterfowl (none, minor [$< 1,000$ birds], major [$>1,000$ birds])
- species and number of birds disturbed
- bird response (circled or moved, distance and direction moved)
- amount of time that birds remained in flight following disturbance

During Voluntary Avoidance period (15 Oct – 29 Nov 2007)...

Boating Activity	Total number of boats observed	No. of boats that intruded into WICA (% of total)	Intrusions that resulted in a minor disturbance	Intrusions that resulted in a major disturbance	Waterfowl disturbed during intrusions	Disturbances that occurred outside WICA	Waterfowl disturbed pool-wide
Hunting	314	22 (7)	8	1	4,771	1	5,771
Angling	80	2 (3)	0	0	0	0	0
Barge	40	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	820
Pleasure	14	0 (0)	0	0	0	2	0
Government	13	7 (54)	1	4	11,670	0	11,670
Comm. fish	6	2 (33)	0	1	13,850	1	14,000
Sailing	1	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Kayaking	1	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Trapping	1	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Deer hunt	1	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	6	0 (0)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	477	33 (7)	9	6	30,291	4	32,261

Boat routes recorded during Voluntary Avoidance period

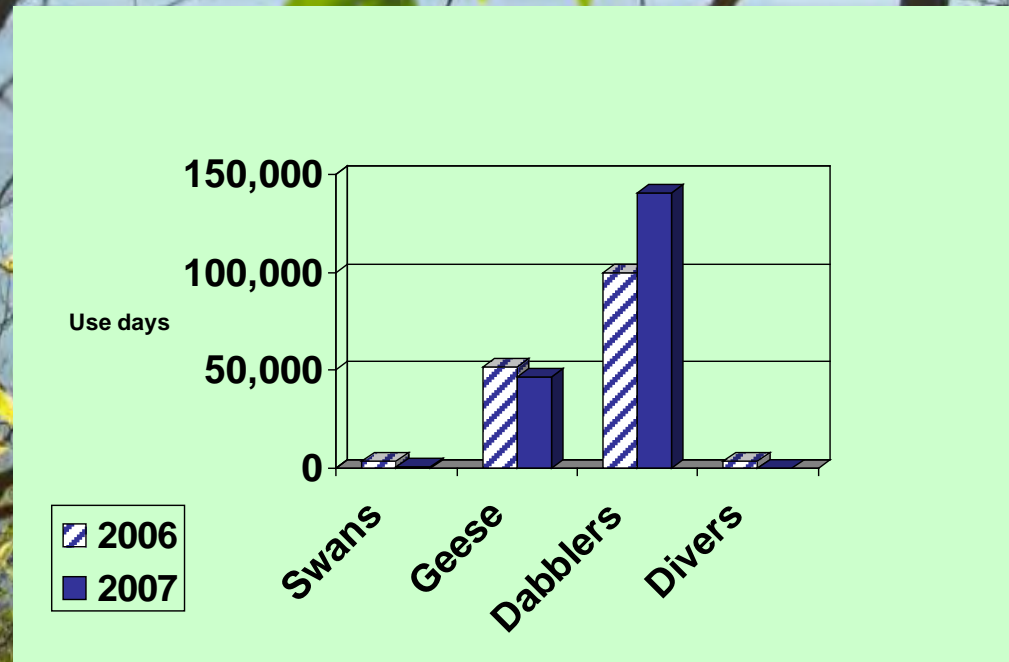


Daily mean estimates (90% CIs)

	All boats		Commercial fish and Government excluded	
	Pre-VA period	During VA period	Pre-VA period	During VA period
Pool-wide boating events/day	60.43 (43.99, 76.87)	26.03 (22.23, 29.84)	56.83 (39.39, 74.27)	25.00 (21.06, 28.94)
Pool-wide disturbances/day: major and minor	2.30 (1.14, 3.47)	1.05 (0.79, 1.30)	1.87 (1.05, 2.69)	0.67 (0.46, 0.88)
Pool-wide disturbances/day: major	0.14 (0.00, 0.33)	0.39 (0.21, 0.57)	0.14 (0.00, 0.33)	0.12 (0.00, 0.24)
Intrusions into WICA/day	6.76 (4.58, 8.95)	1.82 (1.26, 2.39)	5.76 (4.04, 7.47)	1.34 (0.85, 1.83)
Disturbances resulting from intrusions/day: major&minor	2.01 (0.82, 3.21)	0.82 (0.56, 1.07)	1.58 (0.78, 2.38)	0.50 (0.31, 0.68)
Disturbances resulting from intrusions/day: major	0.14 (0.00, 0.33)	0.32 (0.17, 0.47)	0.14 (0.00, 0.33)	0.05 (0.00, 0.12)

Elk River Closed Area, Pool 13

Disturbance Monitoring



Effort: Temp. hire: 51 hours, 11 visits, from bluff top.

Results: Observer saw 3 intrusions after October 15.

All minimal disturbance; direct line travel through area; no rallying.

Recap of the 2007 Closed Area Changes

CCP Changes: Findings

1) Waterfowl increased in some closed areas as a result of changes. Response not clear in other closed areas. Habitat factors involved.

2) Public compliance with new provisions was good.

3) No indication that more restrictive public use regulations need to be implemented at this time. (Thresholds not a problem.)

Upper Miss Waterfowl Management

Pool 4 Changes effective next year

- 1. Open Nelson Trevino;**
- 2. Close Big Lake**
- 3. Enhance swans, dabblers and divers**

Public Informational Open Houses

September 25 in Wabasha MN

September 27 in Nelson WI

Implementation of the 2006 CCP

Recreational Use

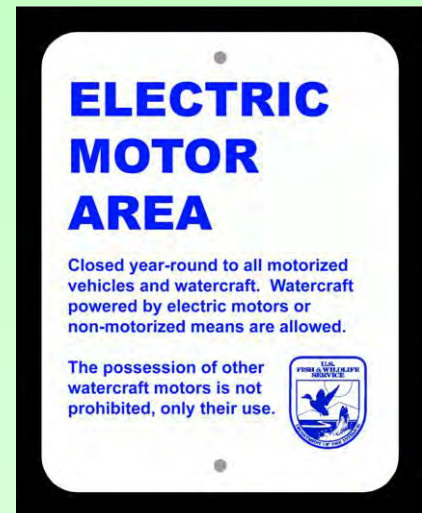
- **Electric Motor Areas**

Closed to Use of Motorized vehicles year round

5 areas cover 1,852 acres

Implemented Spring / Summer 2008

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Pool 5 | Island 42, Minnesota, 459 acres. |
| Pool 5A | Snyder Lake, Minnesota, 182 acres. |
| Pool 6 | Mertes Slough, Wisconsin, 222 acres, Existing |
| Pool 7 | Browns Marsh, Wisconsin, 827 acres. |
| Pool 10 | Hoosier Lake, Wisconsin, 162 acres. |



Implementation of the 2006 CCP

- **Slow, No Wake Areas**

March 16 through October 31

Vehicles go slow, no wake

And

No airboats or hovercraft allowed

8 areas cover 9,720 acres

Implemented Spring / Summer 2008



Implementation of the 2006 CCP

2008 Slow, No-Wake Areas

- Pool 5A Denzers Slough, Minnesota, 83 acres.
- Pool 7 Black River Bottoms, Wisconsin, 815 acres.
- Pool 8 Blue/Target Lake, Minnesota, 1,834 acres.
- Pool 8 Root River, Minnesota, 695 acres.
- Pool 9 Reno Bottoms, Minnesota, 2,536 acres.
- Pool 12 Nine Mile Island, Iowa, 454 acres.
- Pool 14 Princeton, Iowa, 327 acres.

2009 Slow, No-Wake Area

- Pool 4 Nelson-Trevino, Wisconsin, 2,626 acres.

Other:

Fish Management Plan

Wildlife Inventory Plan

Immediate Retrieval of Waterfowl

Ramsar