

Aquatic Invasive Species Inspection Report

Lake: **Sturgeon (DOW# 58006700)**

Inspection Date: **07/18/2024**

County: **Pine**

Surveyors: **Rich Rezanka**

Water Temp (*F): **75.0**

Report Author: **Rich Rezanka**

Inspection Times: **0930 - 1530**

Report Date: **07/22/2024**

Minnesota DNR Aquatic Invasive Species program staff performed an inspection of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) throughout the littoral zone of Sturgeon Lake on 07/18/2024. Eurasian watermilfoil was documented in numerous, stands within the littoral zone around the lake. Management activities are planned in 2024.



Photo 1: An inconvenience at the public access on Sturgeon Lake on 18 July 2024.



Figure 2: Stand of Eurasian watermilfoil present in Sturgeon Lake on 18 July 2024.

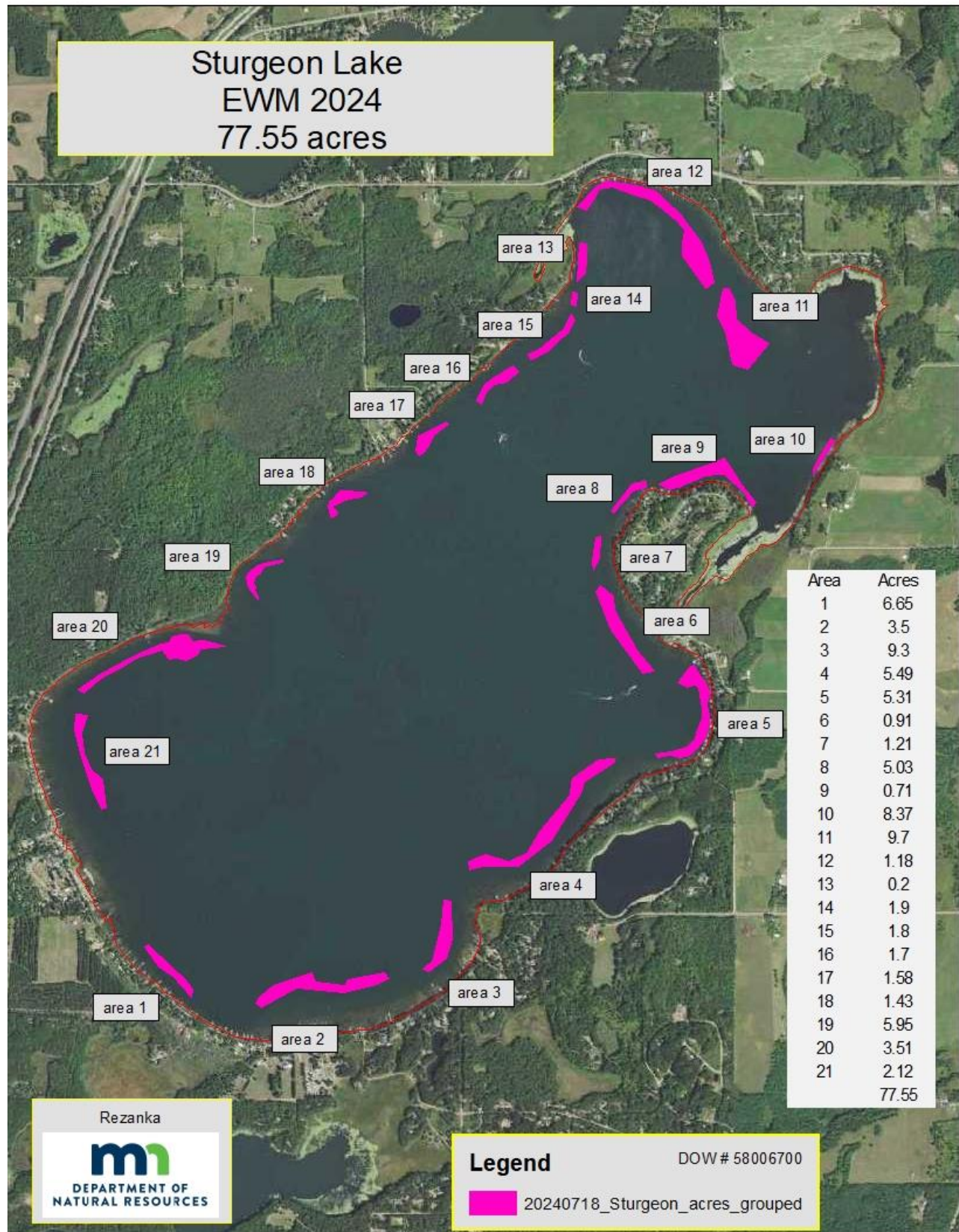


Figure 1. Map indicates potential treatment areas of Eurasian watermilfoil in 2024.

The survey was conducted from a boat with a sampling rake, water depth was measured with the depth finder, and GPS coordinates were recorded on a Garmin Map62stc unit.

Weather was sunny and hot with negligible wind from the south and southeast. Air temperature was 85 degrees; surface water temperature was 75 degrees. Water clarity in the lake was high (15 feet). Visual sampling was possible in shallow sites with depths less than six feet.

Delineation methods involved both visual methods and the use of a two-sided plant rake. The boat was driven from shallow water into deep water in a slow meandering pattern. Special attention was paid to areas in the lake where favorable EWM growing conditions were present.

Eurasian watermilfoil was found at depths ranging from 4.0 - 9.0 feet but was found growing most commonly at 7.0 feet deep. A significant resurgence in EWM was observed on Sturgeon Lake in 2024. Even areas that had a history of herbicide management supported extensive, dense stands of EWM. EWM was matted on the surface at some sites and posed a recreational nuisance at many others.



photo 3: Many EWM plants that had reached the surface were in flower (red circles) on 18 July 2024.



Photo 4: Eurasian watermilfoil in a large surface mat at Area 5 on Sturgeon Lake on 18 July 2024.

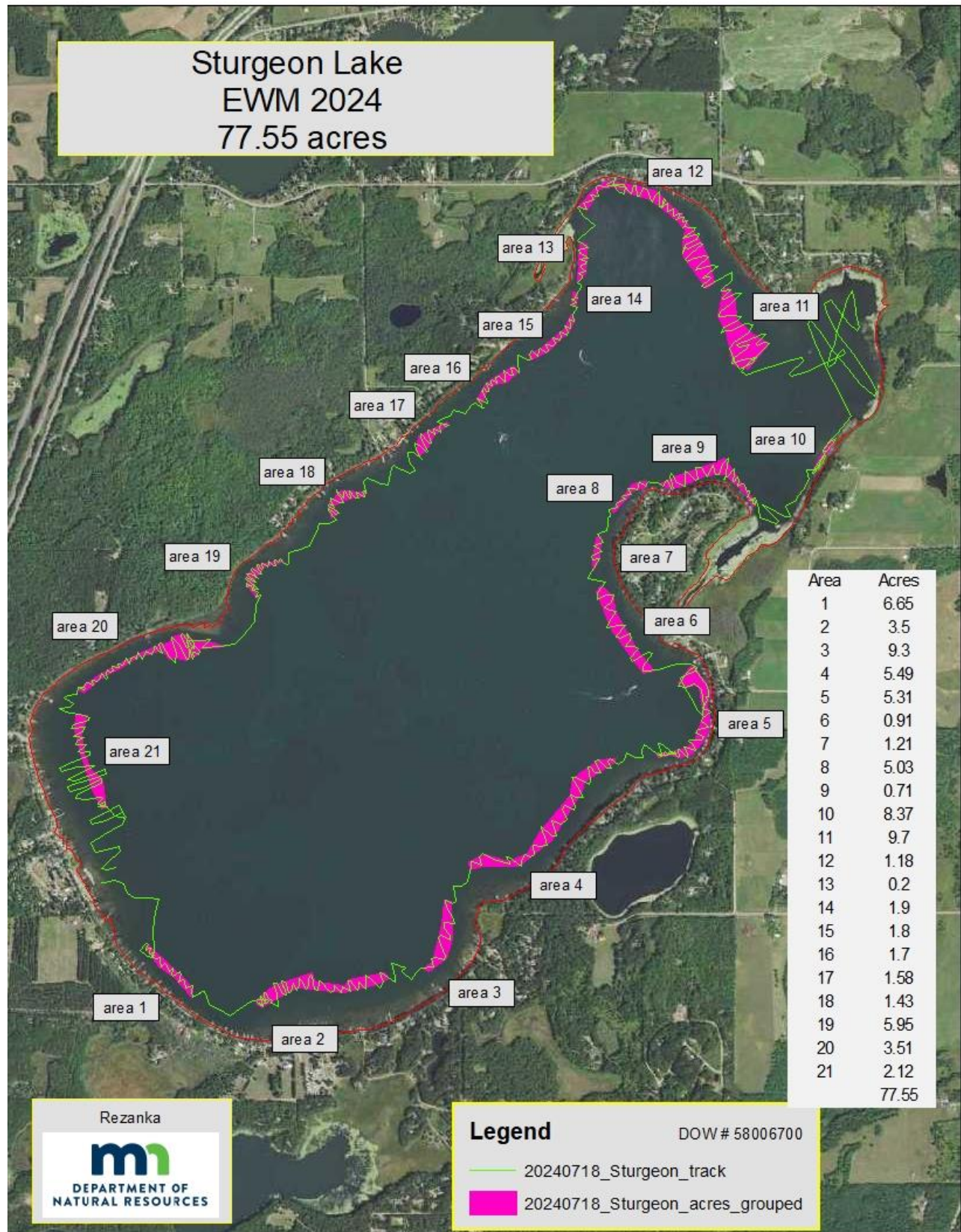


Figure 2. A survey map of Sturgeon Lake showing proposed treatment sites and survey tracks from 18 July 2024.

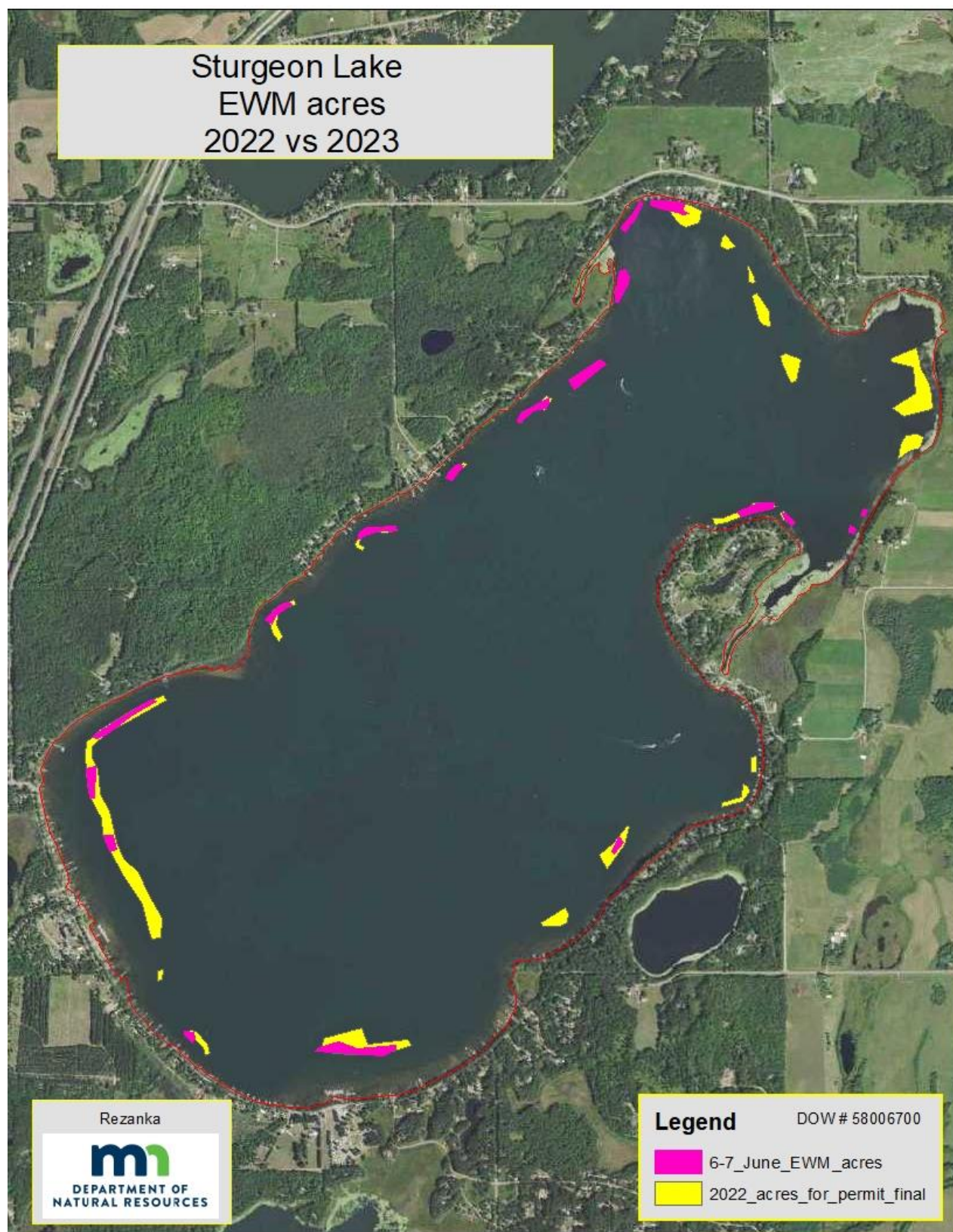


Figure 3. A map showing the EWM acreage from 2022 (yellow) and 2023 (pink).