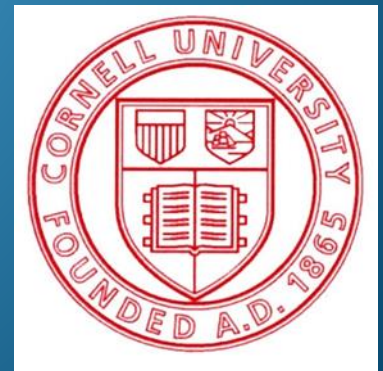


What Anglers (and Boaters) Know About AIS and What Messages They Still Need to Hear



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A SURVEY OF ANGLERS IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION



Cornell University
Human Dimensions Research Unit



Anglers

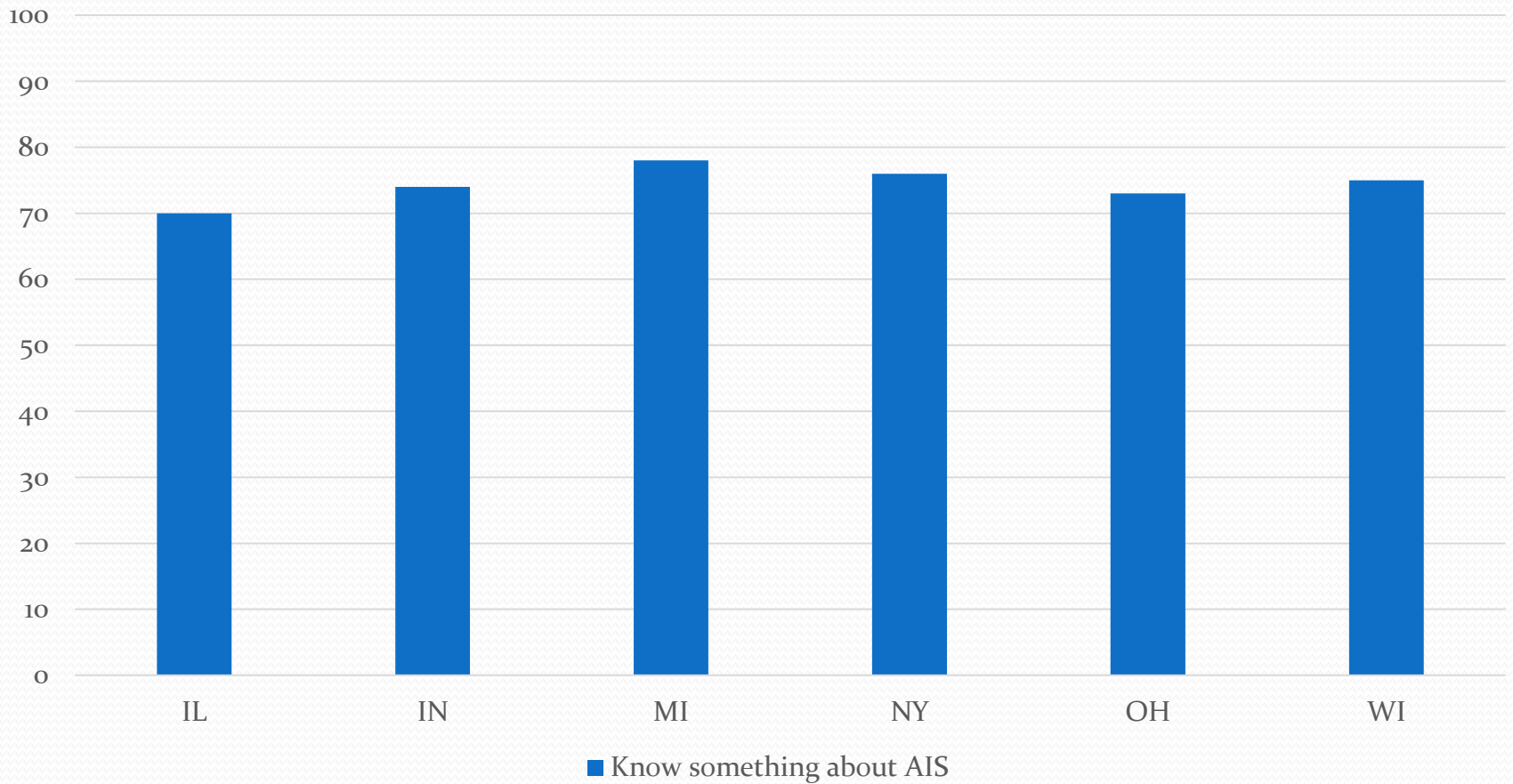
- Who are often boaters



Questions to be answered today

- How aware are they of AIS?
- What do they know about AIS?
- How concerned are they about AIS?
- What actions are they currently taking?
- What messages can be improved?
- How to connect with them?

Awareness





STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- **Inspect** your boat, trailer, and equipment and **remove** visible aquatic plants, fish or animals, and mud.
- **Drain** water from bait buckets, livewells, bilge, transom, and motor.
- **Dispose** of unwanted live bait and worms in the trash.
- **Spray/wash** your boat, trailer, and equipment with high pressure or hot water before going to other waters, OR
- **Dry** everything for at least five days.



PROTECT YOUR WATERS



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

To help protect Florida's lakes, rivers and springs from invasive species, be sure to:

CLEAN plants off and dispose of them on dry land or in the trash.

DRAIN standing water from your boat.

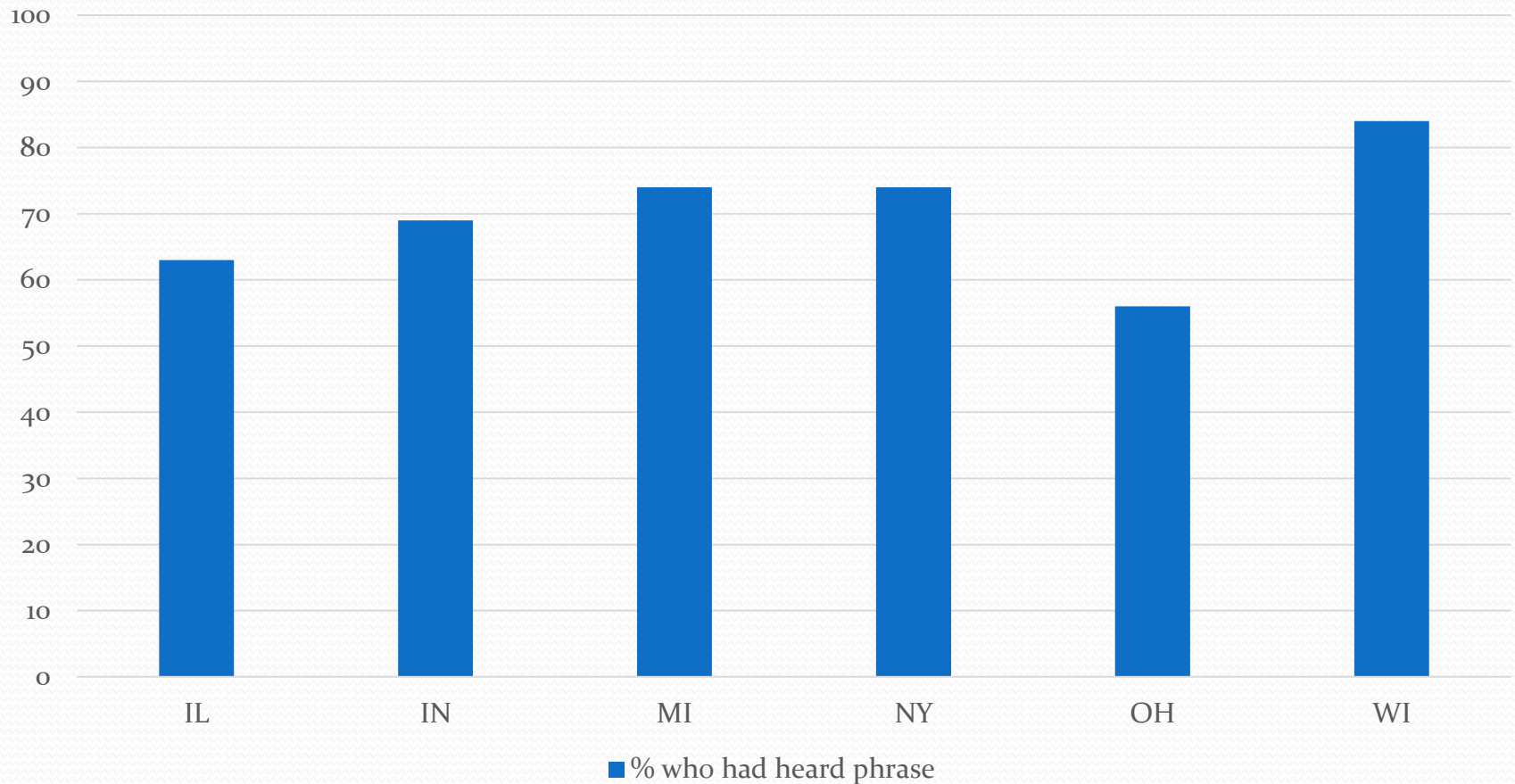
DRY your boat to prevent the transport of aquatic hitchhikers.



For more information visit:

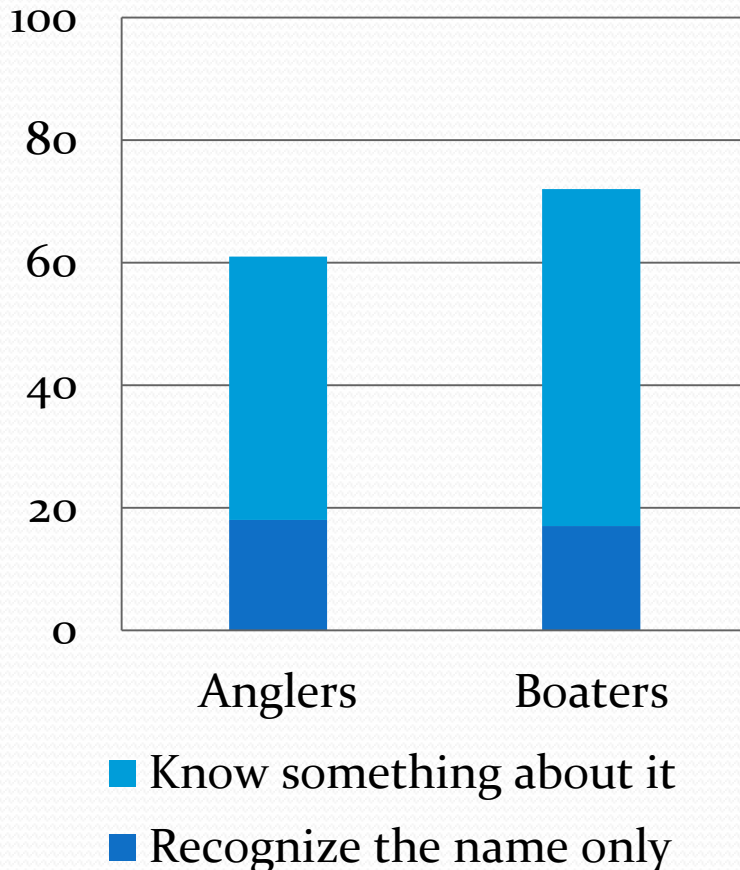
www.plants.ifas.ufl.edu or www.protectyourwaters.net

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

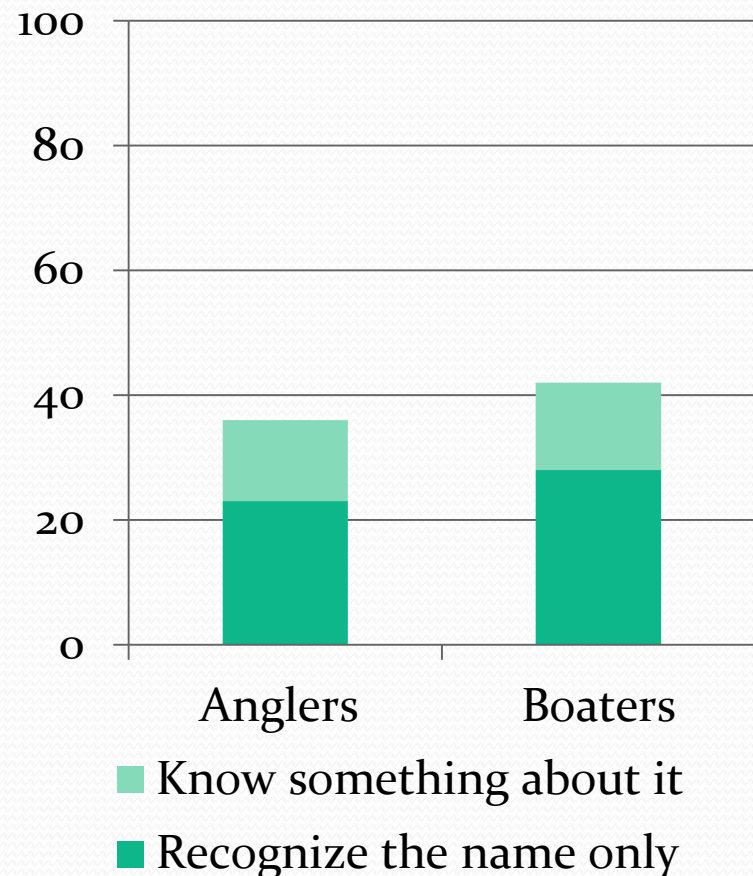


Knowledge of New York Anglers and Boaters

Zebra Mussels



Hydrilla

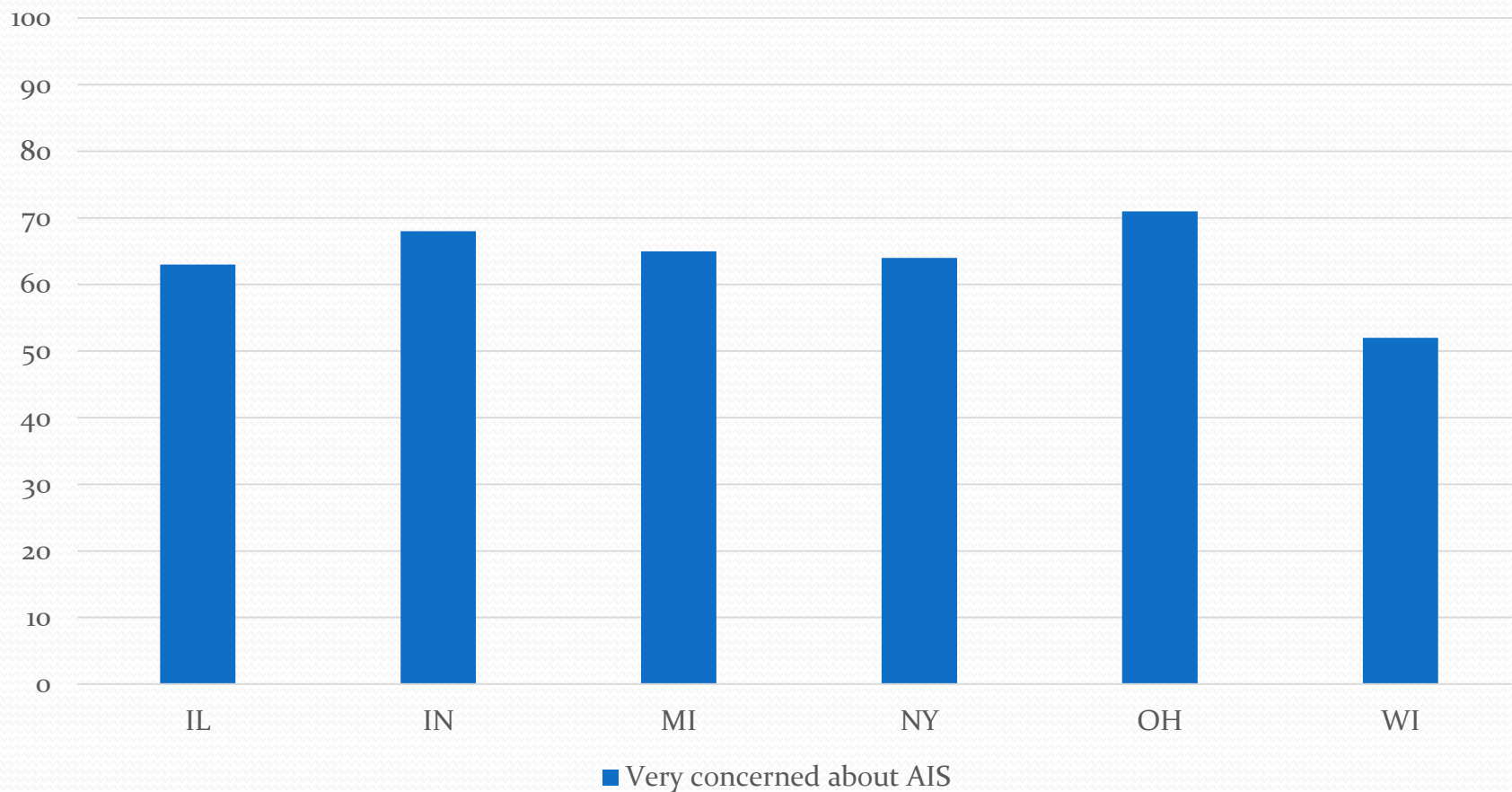




Beliefs of Great Lakes Anglers

- AIS can hurt native fish populations
- AIS can reduce the number of fish available to catch

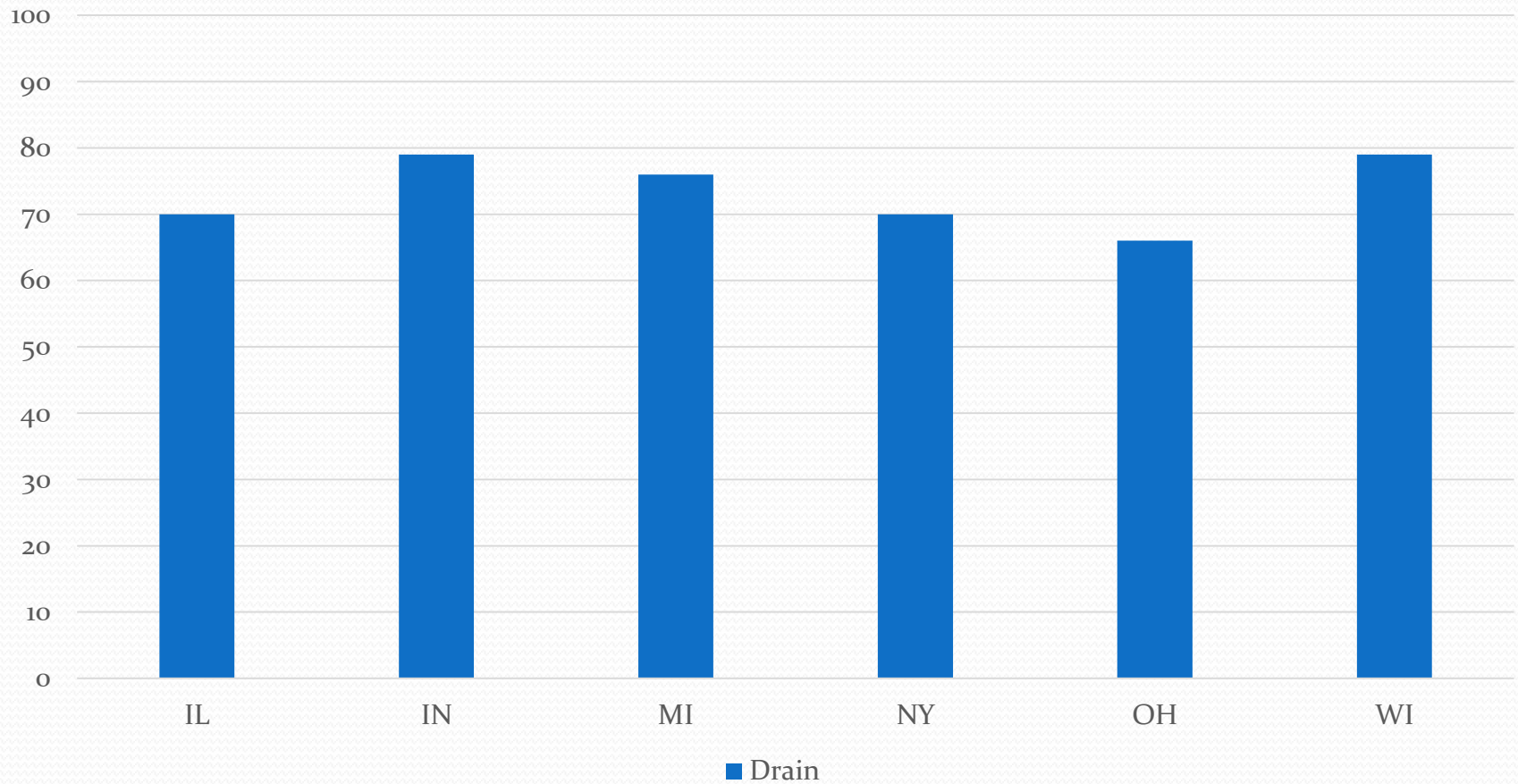
Concern



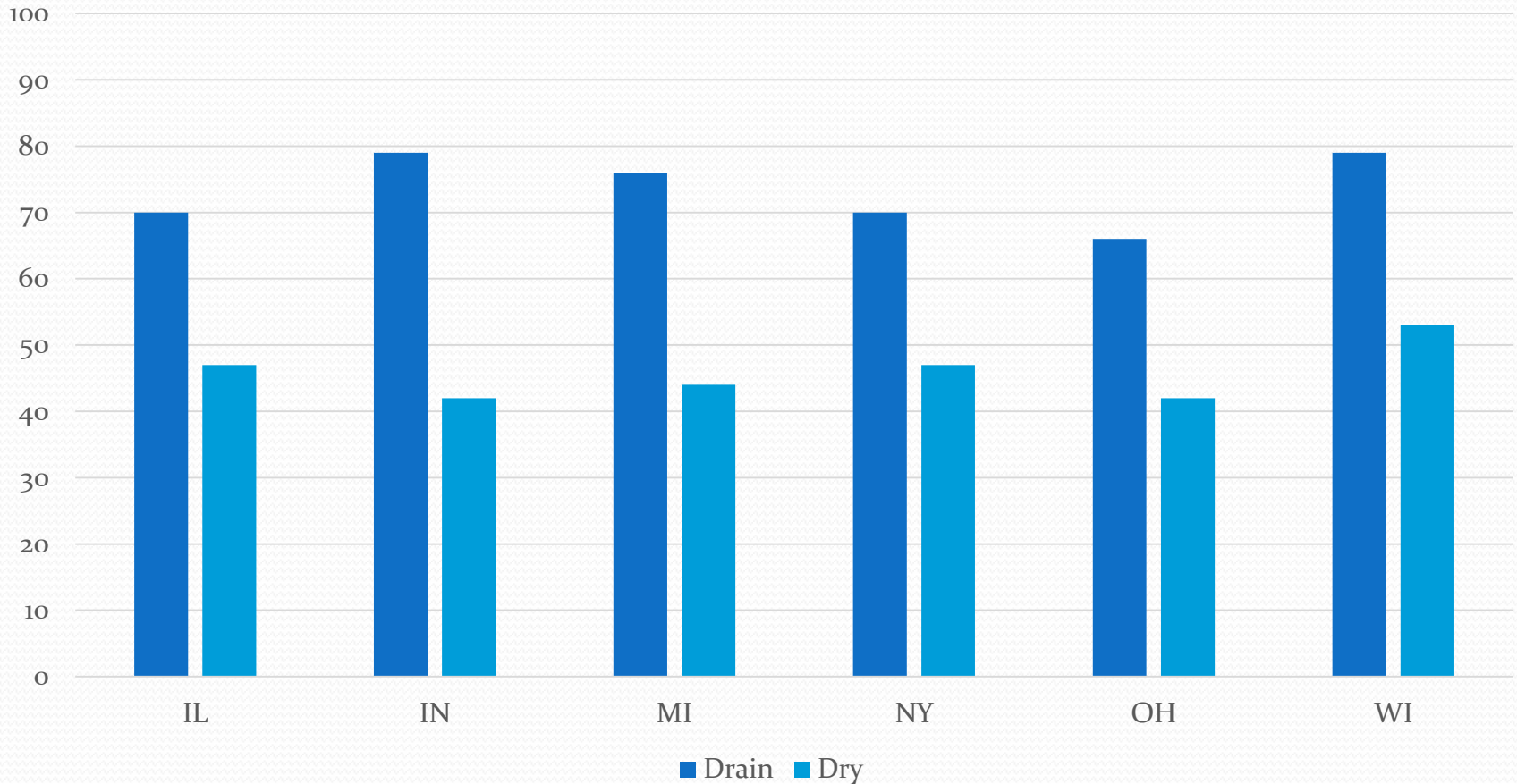
Recommended Actions

- Inspect fishing or boating equipment (89%)
- Remove material before transporting fishing or boating equipment (89%)
- Drain all water holding compartments (92%)
- Dry all fishing and boating equipment before use in another water body (78%)
- Disinfect or rinse with hot water anything that came into contact with water before reuse (56%)

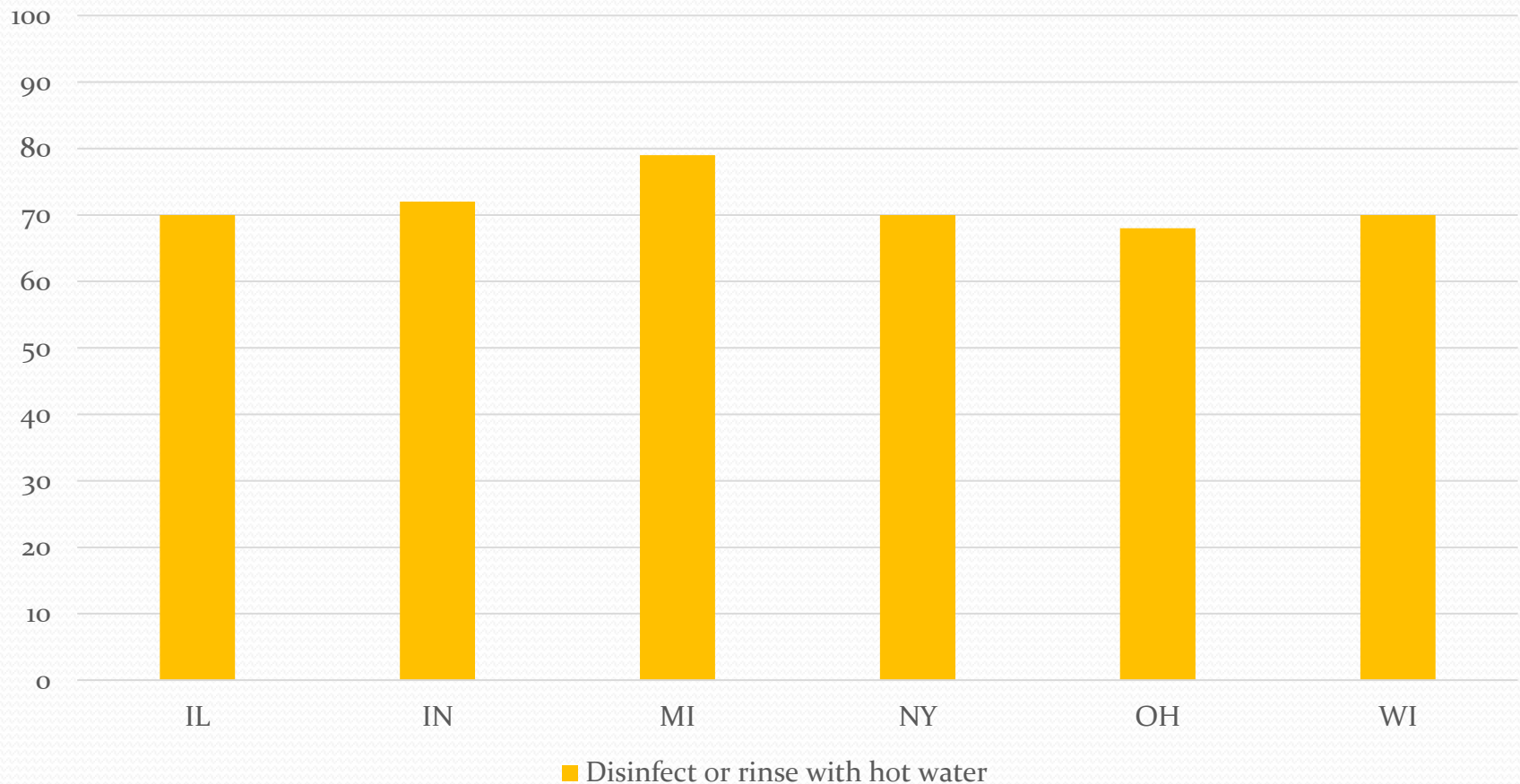
Always Drain



Always Drain & Always Dry



Never Disinfect or Rinse with Hot Water



Boater Behaviors

- 82% *always* drain water-holding compartments
- 79% *always* clean vegetation off boat
- 62% *always* dry boats before using in another water body
- 34% *always* wash off their boat when they get home

Recommended Baitfish Actions



- Use certified baitfish
- Bait disposal
 - Water where caught (27%)
 - Trash (41%)
 - Dry land (41%)
 - NOT another body of water (42%)

**We may be small...
but we can be
BIG trouble!**

**Keep Fishing Great
in New York State**



USE BAITFISH ONLY WHERE PERMITTED

ONLY USE CERTIFIED DISEASE-FREE BAITFISH

DUMP UNUSED BAIT ON DRY LAND

**DON'T MOVE BAIT OR OTHER FISH FROM ONE
WATER TO ANOTHER**

REPORT ILLEGAL STOCKING ACTIVITIES



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of invasive species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.protectyourwaters.net
www.dec.ny.gov/education/000121.shtml



PROTECT YOUR WATERS

Anglers and Boaters

Help STOP the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species and Fish Diseases
Fish diseases such as viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) and invasive species such as the zebra mussel and Eurasian watermilfoil can be spread through the use of boating and fishing equipment that has not been properly cleaned, dried, or disinfected prior to its use in another water body. Help stop the spread of these noxious species and diseases by adhering to the following simple guidelines.

1



INSPECT your boat, trailer and other fishing and boating equipment and remove all mud, plants and other organisms that might be clinging to it. Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

2



DRAIN AND DRY everything that came into contact with water. Many aquatic invasive species and fish diseases are microscopic and can be transported in as little as a drop of water. Dry equipment for at least 48 hours before using it in another water body. Difficult to dry gear may require even longer drying times. Be sure to completely drain your boat, including baitwells and livewells.

3



DISINFECT equipment if you cannot or do not have the time to dry it before using it in another water body. Effective disinfectants include 3 ounces of household bleach mixed with 1 gallon of water, 2% bleach solution cleaners such as Fantastik®, or Spray Nine® that contain the ingredient alkyl dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride. For all materials, follow label instructions and be sure to soak equipment for a minimum of 10 minutes. Dispose all cleaning/disinfectant solutions away from surface waters in accordance with label restrictions. For additional information, contact your local DEC office or go to www.dec.ny.gov.

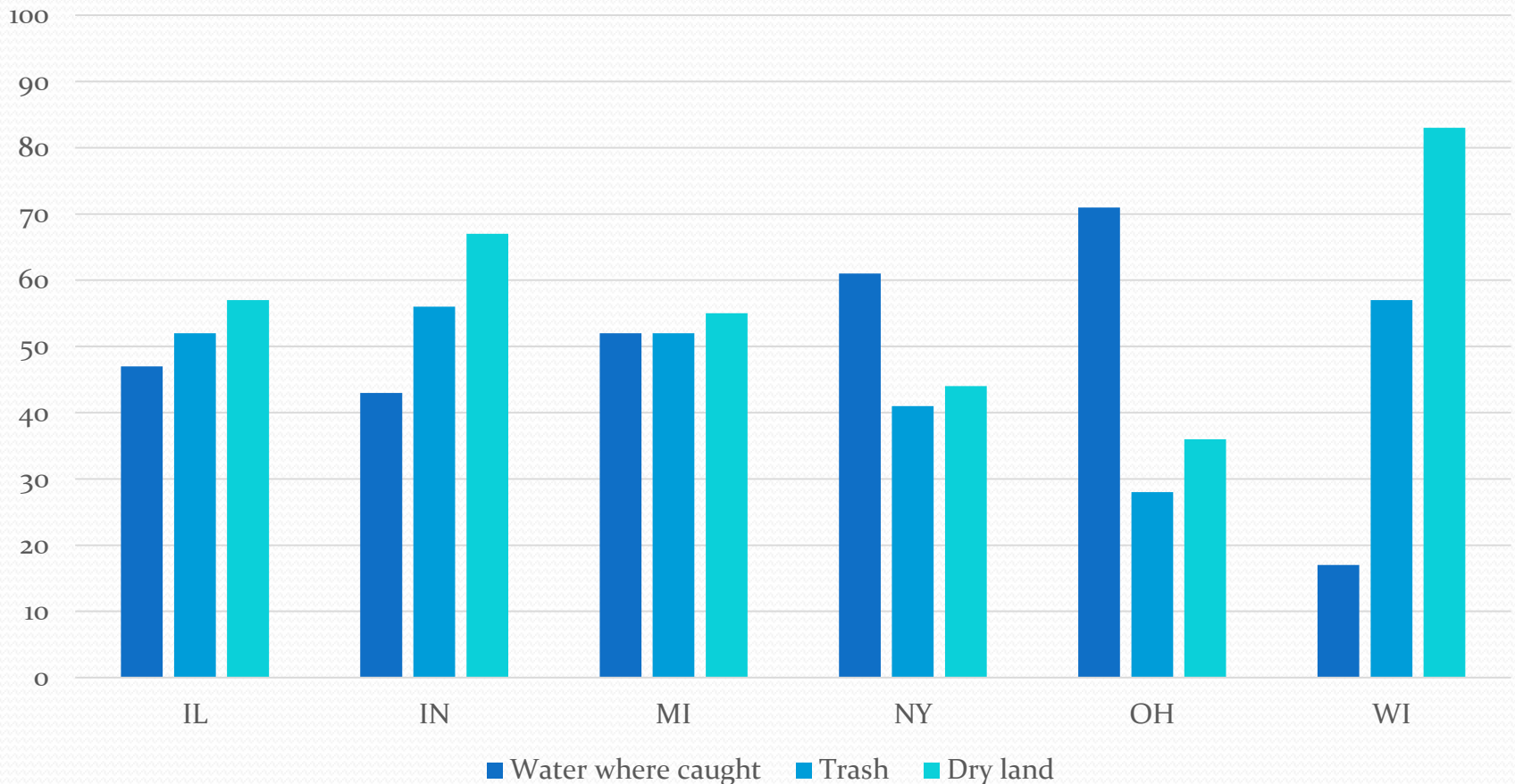
Be on the lookout for these aquatic invasive species of concern



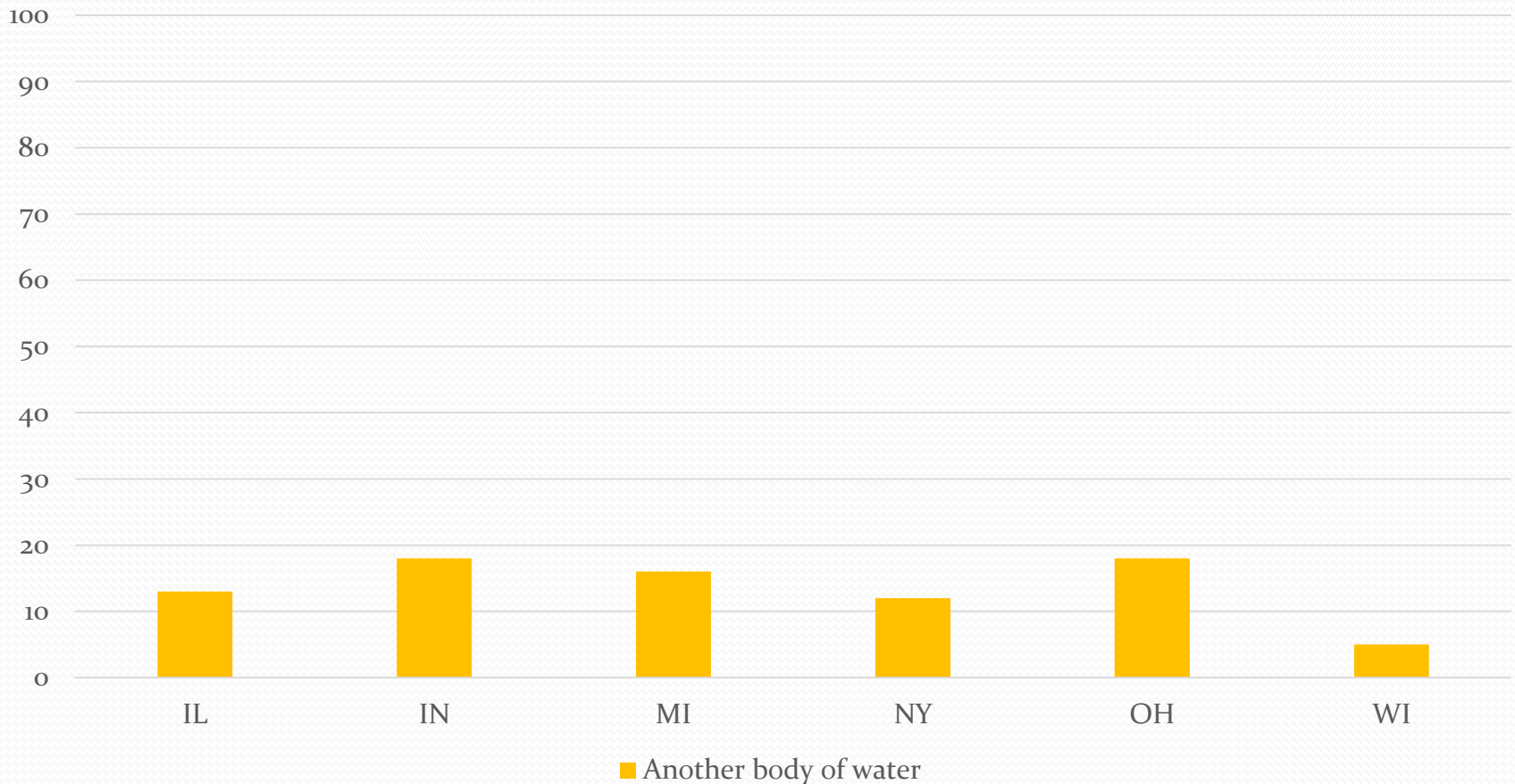
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

I--NY

Bait Disposal Methods: Acceptable



Bait Disposal Methods: Unacceptable



Questions to be answered today

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- What do they know about AIS?
- How concerned are they about AIS?
- What actions are they currently taking?
- What messages can be improved?
- How to connect with them?

Summary So Far

- Most anglers aware of and concerned about AIS
- Most anglers and boaters take some action
 - But don't wash equipment



How Messages Can Be Improved

- Most messages communicated with similar language and guidelines (inspect, remove, drain)
- Washing and drying messages not always consistent
 - Recommend hot water, disinfectant, high-pressure water
 - Varying drying times
 - Could be contributing to why fewer people wash equipment

Suggestions for Connecting with Anglers and Boaters

- Keep the messages consistent
- Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers is well known
- Build on beliefs about AIS and level of concern
- Make taking action easier