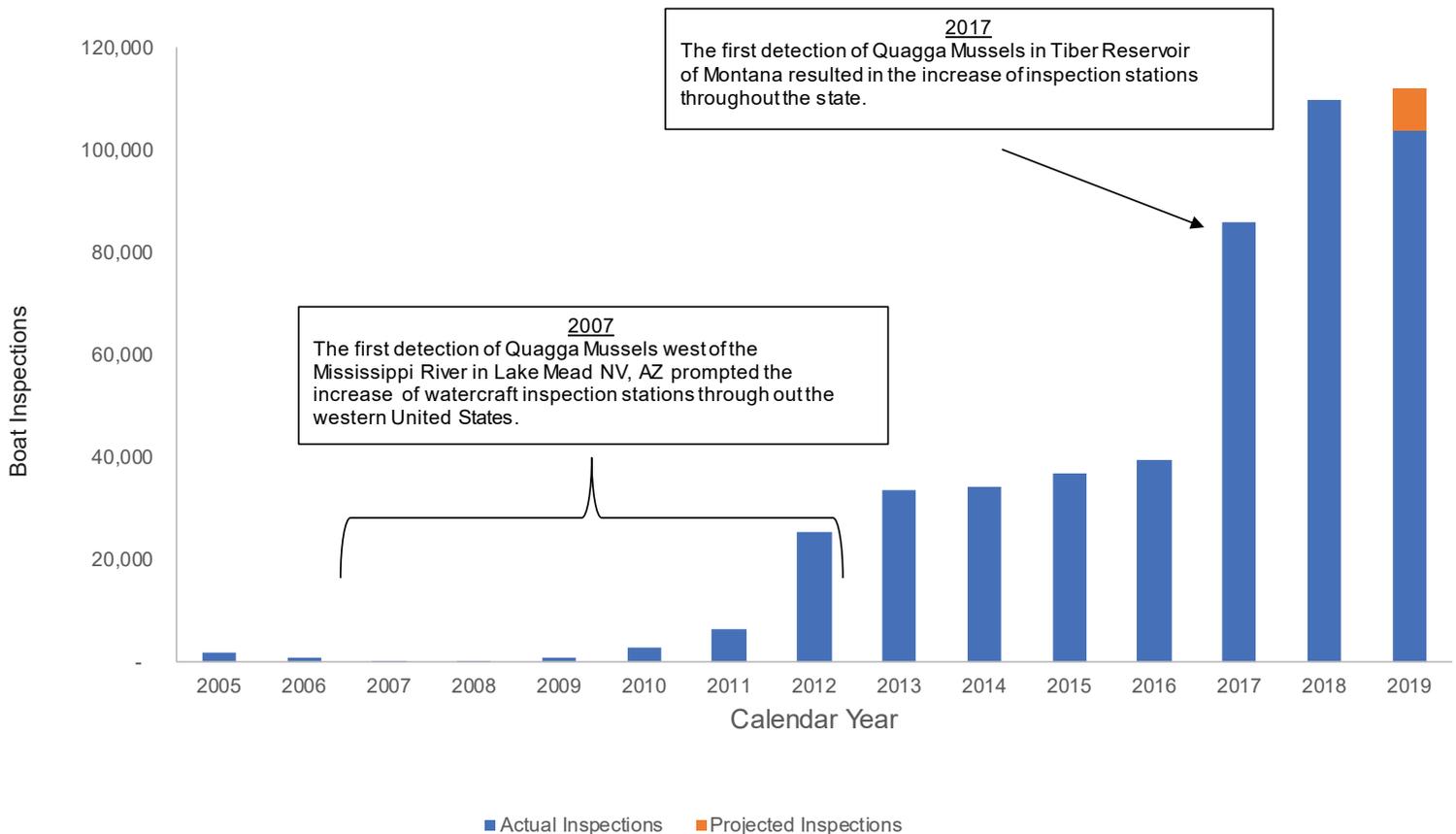


Montana’s effort to contain the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) includes the establishment of watercraft inspection stations throughout the state. Over the last 15 years 500,000 vessels have been inspected for aquatic invasive species.



Montana is part of a multi-state effort to minimize the harmful impacts of AIS by limiting or preventing the spread of AIS into, within or out of Montana. Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has been operating watercraft inspection stations since 2004. Watercraft inspections have always been mandatory for anglers and have been required for all other boaters since 2011. As watercraft and water-based equipment are the most common mode of transport for and subsequent introduction to AIS, these check stations are a key part of Montana’s overall prevention strategy.

Through **HB 411**, passed during the 2019 legislative session, it is estimated that \$6.6 million in state and federal revenue per year will be generated for AIS prevention. The revenue is generated from fees charged to anglers, boaters, hydroelectric facilities, and a portion of the accommodation facility use tax.