



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Tina Wolbers | AIS Prevention Planner



Overview of Aquatic Invasive Species

- Definitions
- Minnesota AIS Laws
- Prevention
- Species of Concern
- How to Report New Infestations
- How to Get Involved
- Additional Resources



Definition of Invasive Species

Minnesota Statute 84D, Subd. 9a.

"Invasive species" means a nonnative species that:

(1) causes or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health; or

(2) threatens or may threaten natural resources or the use of natural resources in the state.



Why do Minnesotans Care?

Invasive species impact our:

Environment

Economy

Society

**Humans move invasive species.
Humans must take action to prevent
their spread.**



Minnesota DNR Authorities

- **DNR has statutory authority to:**
 - Issue permits.
 - Make rules.
 - Enforce regulations.
- **Example DNR authorities:**
 - List and regulate infested waters.
 - Classify and regulate invasive species.
 - Regulate the transport of aquatic plants.
 - Train, authorize and conduct watercraft inspections.
 - Permit the control of invasive aquatic plants.



AIS Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

- **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.
- **DRAIN** water-related equipment and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell before leaving a water access or shoreline property. Keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.
- **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody into another.
- **DRY** docks and boat lifts for 21 days before placing them in another body of water.
- **Additional recommendations to kill and remove AIS: SPRAY** with high-pressure water, **RINSE** with very hot water, and/or **DRY** for at least 5 days.



Minnesota AIS Prevention Efforts

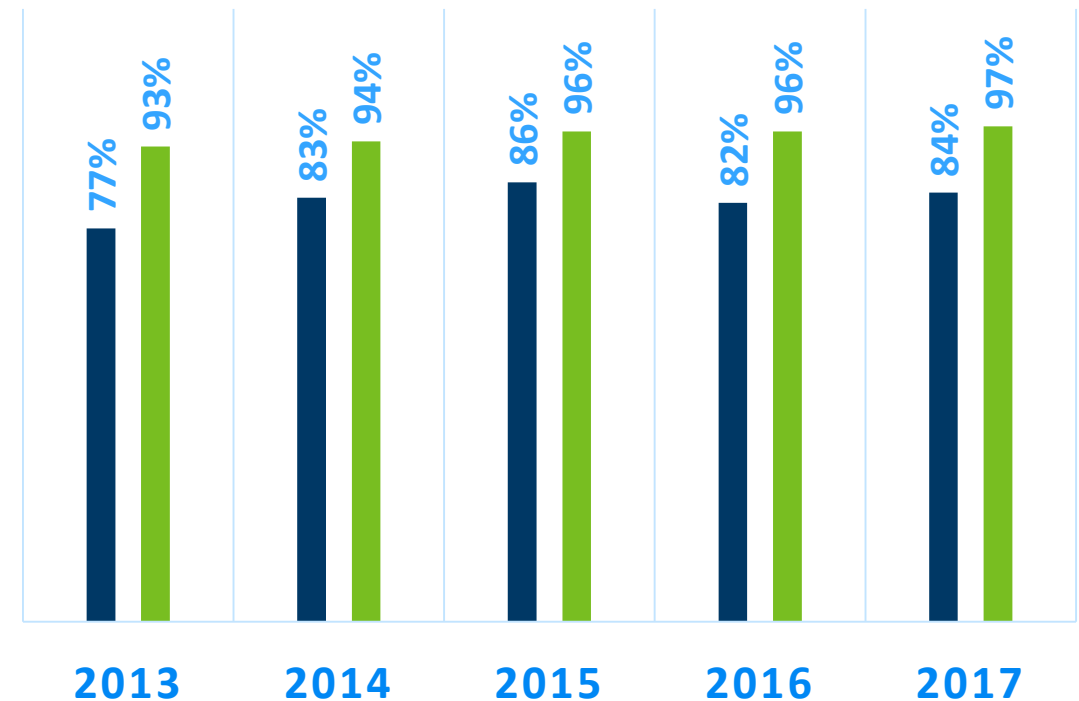
DNR AIS 2017 Program Highlights:

- DNR conservation officers provided 16,618 hours of AIS enforcement and education.
- Held 45 trainings and authorized 949 local government watercraft inspectors. Along with 103 DNR inspectors, they conducted over 450,000 inspections.
- Completed 13 in-person permit trainings for 150 lake service provider owners and managers, trained an additional 137 owners and managers online, and issued 250 permits to their businesses.
- Issued 327 invasive aquatic plant management permits.

More than 97% of people inspected at lakes or rivers in 2017 did not have any invasive species on their recreational equipment.

COMPLIANCE WITH AIS LAWS

- Compliance at Check Stations (approximately 15 stations and 400 inspections per year)
- Drain Plug Compliance (at inspection locations)



Species of Concern

Aquatic Plants

- Eurasian Watermilfoil
- Curly Leaf Pondweed
- Starry Stonewort
- Purple Loosestrife

Invertebrates (Animals)

- Zebra mussels
- Spiny Waterflea



Not Everything is a “weed”: Native Aquatic Plants

Native aquatic plants are a vital part of a healthy lake ecosystem.



Invasive Species Biology, Impacts & Means of Spread

- Lack natural enemies and reproduce rapidly and often.
- Crowd out native species and provide poor habitat and/or food source for native species.
- Change ecosystem functions.
- Impact use of natural resources, impede recreation, and/or impact human health.
- Costly to control and nearly impossible to eradicate once established.
- Attach to water-related equipment moved by humans.
- Can survive out of water for days, sometimes weeks in wet conditions (zebra mussels).



Invasive Aquatic Plants

Eurasian Watermilfoil



Curly-leaf Pondweed



Starry Stonewort



Purple Loosestrife



Invasive Aquatic Animals

Zebra Mussels



Spiny Waterflea



How to Report New Infestations

If you suspect a new infestation of an aquatic invasive plant or animal:

- Note the exact **location** (GPS point, lake, county, nearest city).
- Take a **photo** or keep the specimen:
 - Clear photos with all parts of the plant/animal and item for scale.
 - Place specimen in tightly sealed plastic bag/container with small amount of water – you may transport directly to a MN DNR office for identification.
- **Contact the DNR Invasive Species Specialist** in your region.
- Optional: Report it online using EDDMapS or using the GLEDN App.



How to Get Involved

- Become familiar with aquatic invasive species of concern.
- Report new infestations.
- Promote “Clean, Drain, Dispose – Spray, Rinse, Dry” to your residents and in the work that you do.



Online Resources

- [DNR AIS Contact List](#)
- [Outreach materials](#)
- [Infested waters](#)
- [Become and AIS Detector \(UMN-Extension Program\)](#)



- Aquatic invasive species impact Minnesota's environment, economy, and society.
- It's everyone's responsibility to prevent the spread of AIS.
 - Clean, Drain, Dispose – Spray, Rinse, Dry
- The Minnesota DNR is here to support local organizations with their AIS prevention and management efforts.





DNR AIS Prevention Planners and Local AIS Plan Framework

- AIS Prevention Aid background and distribution
- Role of counties and role of DNR
- Framework / activity overview
- Example city projects
- How to get involved



AIS Prevention Aid Background

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid Minnesota Statute, Section 477A.19

“A county that receives a distribution under this section must use the proceeds solely to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the county.”

Each county must create guidelines for use of the funds and submit a copy to the DNR each year.

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MINNESOTA STATUTES 2015

477A.19

477A.19 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION AID.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) When used in this section, the following terms have the meanings given them in this subdivision.

(b) "Aquatic invasive species" means nonnative aquatic organisms that invade water beyond their natural and historic range.

(c) "Watercraft trailer launch" means any public water access site designed for launching watercraft.

(d) "Watercraft trailer parking space" means a parking space designated for a boat trailer at any public water access site designed for launching watercraft.

Subd. 2. **Distribution.** The money appropriated to aquatic invasive species prevention aid under this section shall be allocated to all counties in the state as follows: 50 percent based on each county's share of watercraft trailer launches and 50 percent based on each county's share of watercraft trailer parking spaces.

Subd. 3. **Use of proceeds.** A county that receives a distribution under this section must use the proceeds solely to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the county. The county must establish, by resolution or through adoption of a plan, guidelines for the use of the proceeds. The guidelines set by the county board may include, but are not limited to, providing for site-level management, countywide awareness, and other procedures that the county finds necessary to achieve compliance. The county may appropriate the proceeds directly, or may use any portion of the proceeds to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the county, a watershed district in the county, or a lake association located in the county. Any money appropriated by the county to a different entity or political subdivision must be used as required under this section. Each county must submit a copy of its guidelines for use of the proceeds to the Department of Natural Resources by December 31 of the year the payments are received.

Subd. 4. **Payments.** The commissioner of revenue must compute the amount of aquatic invasive species prevention aid payable to each county under this section. On or before August 1 of each year, the commissioner shall certify the amount to be paid to each county in the following year. The commissioner shall pay aquatic invasive species prevention aid to counties annually at the times provided in section 477A.015.

Subd. 5. **Appropriation.** \$10,000,000 each year is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of revenue to make the payments required under this section.

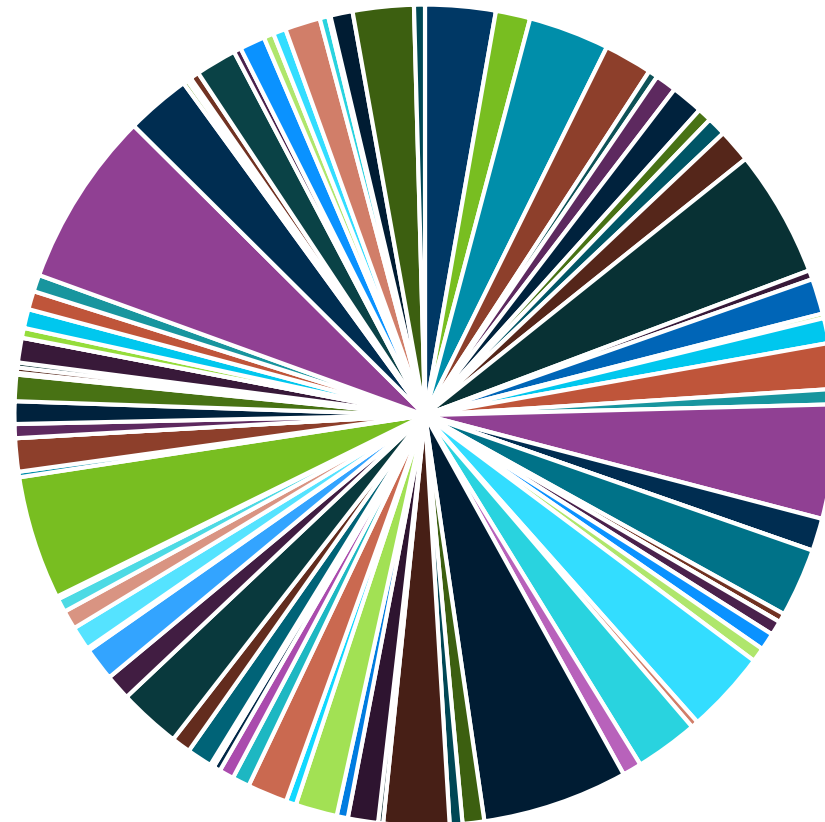
History: 2014 c 308 art 1 s 11; 2015 c 21 art 1 s 91,92

AIS Prevention Aid Distribution

Distributed by the Minnesota Dept. of Revenue

- Statewide: \$10 million each year.
- County:
 - 50% based on watercraft trailer launches (public)
 - 50% based on watercraft trailer parking spaces.
 - 83 counties out of 87 receive aid.
 - ½ payment on July 20th and ½ on December 26th.
- Range (2018 allocation):
 - Highest: \$711,323
 - Average: \$114,943
 - Lowest: \$5,270

Aid Allocation per County



Role of Counties: A Spectrum of Activities

- Complete oversight to allocate the funding in accordance with the statute.
- Each County Board designates oversight to a LGU within the county.
- Programs are:
 - Diverse.
 - At different stages of development and implementation.
 - Covering a spectrum of AIS activities.



Role of Minnesota DNR: Technical Support

- **Receives guidelines (plans and resolutions)**
- **Provides list of watercraft trailer launches and parking spaces**
 - Update using the “Local Water Access Site Editor Tool.”
 - Minnesota Department of Revenue uses this list to certify the payments each year.
- **Provides technical support**
 - Maintain repository for submitted plans and resolutions.
 - Provide technical support to LGUs as they draft, implement, and evaluate their AIS prevention programs.
 - Facilitate collaboration amongst LGUs.
 - Build relationships between LGUs and the DNR.
 - Provide authorized watercraft inspector training to LGU staff.



Framework (Created in 2014)

Purpose

- A framework for creating a local plan for preventing and managing AIS, based on the 2009 Minnesota State Management Plan for Invasive Species.
- Recommend that justification describing how actions implemented help prevent the spread of AIS are included in any plan or resolution for audit purposes.
- Counties should feel free to include innovative prevention actions in their plans even if those actions are not directly related to actions in the state plan.

Categories

- Assess the county's resources and risk of AIS introduction.
- Increase county enforcement resources.
- Increase public awareness and participation in prevention.
- Increase available resources and leverage partnerships.
- Broaden knowledge of and participation in early detection and rapid response activities.
- Manage existing populations of aquatic invasive species.
- Address specific pathways of introduction.

Metrics Template (Created in 2017)

Purpose:

- Provides a standardized way for local governments and their partners to voluntarily track their AIS Prevention Aid accomplishments.
- A tool to more easily track measurable achievements and impactful stories of success.
- A tool to show local citizens, stakeholder groups, boards and elected officials how your AIS program is making a difference in your communities.

Categories:

- Program Coordination, Partnerships & Job Creation.
- Public Awareness & Education.
- Watercraft Inspection & Decontamination.
- Enforcement.
- Monitoring, Early Detection & Response Planning.
- Management of AIS Populations.
- Other

Example City AIS Projects



How to Get Involved

- Contact your county's primary AIS contact (list available online).
- Join AIS task forces or committees.
- Apply for AIS grants from county programs (if available)
- Implement AIS activities within your jurisdiction:
 - Hire watercraft inspectors.
 - Recruit volunteers.
 - Search for AIS on local lakes and rivers.
 - Incorporate AIS best management practices at city-owned public water access sites.
 - Engage local organizations on the importance of AIS prevention.
 - Implement other site-specific projects.



- AIS Prevention Aid provides \$10 million per year to Minnesota counties.
- This local funding helps build community capacity to address AIS issues.
- County programs are diverse, at different stages of development and implementation, and cover a spectrum of AIS activities.
- Continued collaboration internally and externally at local, regional, and statewide levels is key to program success.
- It's everyone's responsibility to prevent the spread of AIS.



Additional Resources Online

- [Local AIS Prevention Aid](#)
 - [Primary County AIS Contacts](#)
 - [Framework](#)
 - [Metrics Template](#)

Thank You!

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