

## Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) -- 2012

### AIS Advisory Group

- The commissioner has established a statewide AIS Advisory Committee to ensure that DNR continues to build strong relationships with its AIS stakeholders and uses their insights and perspectives to help guide DNR AIS activities. The AIS Advisory Committee is comprised of 15 three year term AIS members and 4 ex-officio members.
- Collectively members of the committee have a range of personal and professional experiences with AIS issues, including prevention, decontamination, public awareness, and control activities. Similarly, different parts of the state are represented on the committee, as will a diversity of ages, genders, recreational interests, public, private and non-profit interests, and education.

### Enforcement

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS March 2012-September 2012

LAW COMPLIANCE CONTACTS	EDUCATIONAL CONTACTS	CRIMINAL CITATIONS	CIVIL CITATIONS	WRITTEN WARNINGS	VERBAL WARNINGS
<b>16079</b>	<b>18060</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>281</b>

- **2012 Statewide Enforcement AIS Check Station Summary.**
  - Division of Enforcement has conducted 12 check stations statewide. For a total of 60 hours of operation and 219 various water related items have been inspected.
  - The average delay time is 4.3 minutes within the check station for no violation and 8.48 minutes with a violation.

### Watercraft Inspection Program

- DNR has had a voluntary watercraft inspection program since the early 1990's. In 2011, the legislature provided additional funding for AIS prevention efforts and DNR was given authority to require mandatory inspections and deny launching of watercraft for non-compliance with AIS laws.
- In 2012, watercraft inspection responsibilities were decentralized and there is now a supervisor in each of the each of DNR's four Regions. These supervisors are responsible for hiring and training 146 seasonal inspectors statewide.
- In 2011-12, the DNR purchased 23 hot water high pressure power washers that are often referred to as decontamination units. Statewide there are 46 Level 2 inspectors that are trained to use this equipment. The 76 Level 1 inspectors are trained to inspect watercraft, but do not operate power washing equipment.

- Statewide (as of Oct 10 2012) the DNR Watercraft Inspection Program logged over 39,000 access hours and performed over 100,000 surveys with individuals entering and exiting the public water accesses. Level 2 inspectors and power washing equipment were available for 6,665 hours and performed decontamination procedures on 809 watercraft based on protocols that assess risk factors. The table below breaks these statistics into regions.

Table 1. 2012 Watercraft Inspection Program Statistics broken down by region (as of Oct 10 2012)

Region	Number of Surveys	Access hours per region	Decon Hours per region	Decontaminations per region
1	24587	12254	2304	130
2	12528	6468	442	28
3	65963	20573	3881	645
4	885	283	38.75	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>103963</b>	<b>39578</b>	<b>6665.75</b>	<b>809</b>

- DNR inspection and decontamination efforts were carried out primarily at high-use zebra mussel infested waters, destination lakes where boaters travel to following boating at zebra mussel infested waters and DNR Enforcement checkpoints on roads near water bodies.

#### Watercraft Cleaning and Decontamination

- The decontamination process includes cleaning off the watercraft and draining all water from the watercraft. It is also recommended, but not required that watercraft be allowed to dry for 5 days before entering into another water body.
- During an inspection if AIS or plants are found adhered to the watercraft, the watercraft has been in a water body overnight, or the watercraft is exiting a high risk water body and traveling to another water body that same day, high pressure/hot water decontamination is the best tool for preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. This decontamination process will be performed by a Level 2 inspector when available.
- The DNR is also developing an additional decontamination training module as part of the Lake Service Providers.
- The DNR watercraft inspection procedures and protocols are reviewed each year to identify any improvements that will help make the whole decontamination process more effective and efficient.

#### Local Unit of Government (LGU) Inspection Programs

- Several LGUs, including Three Rivers Park District and Lake Minnetonka Conservation District have had watercraft inspection programs for a number of years.
- In 2011, interest in LGU inspection programs increased when authority was given to DNR that allowed inspectors to require mandatory inspections and deny launching of watercraft that do not comply with AIS laws.

- In 2012, the DNR entered into 18 Joint Powers Agreements (JPAs) with LGUs for AIS prevention programs that included DNR authorized Level 1 and/or Level 2 watercraft inspectors. The DNR provided 180 hours of training and authorized 213 LGU watercraft inspectors. These inspectors performed 16,165 inspections as of mid-October. The DNR also provided \$131,550 in grants to help support LGU watercraft inspections.
- In 2012, the DNR sought and received approval to streamline the process for authorizing LGU inspection programs by replacing the JPA with a Delegation Agreement. Delegation Agreement information is available online.
- On October 5, 2012, the DNR and LGUs that had inspection programs discussed potential changes to improve coordination and implementation of LGU watercraft inspection programs.
  - The one year JPA will be replaced with a two year Delegation Agreement, which will be linked to the grant application process.
  - Two types of grant funds will be available in 2013, basic watercraft inspections (Level 1), and watercraft inspections using a decontamination unit (Level 2).
  - In 2013, approximately \$130,000 of grant funding is expected to be available to assist LGUs hire watercraft inspectors to work at public water accesses.

### **Lake Service Provider (LSP)**

- In 2011, the Legislature passed a law requiring Lake Service Providers to take Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) training and obtain a permit prior to working in waters of the state. Additionally, the employees of Lake Service Providers are required to obtain a certificate showing that they have completed AIS Training. In 2012, DNR began the process of training and issuing these permits and certificates. The [Lake Service Provider Training and Permit](#) webpage provides information on the process and requirements.
- To date 41 LSP trainings have been offered, 768 permits have been issued, and 2142 employees have been certified. See the [List of Permitted Lake Service Providers](#) for companies that have been permitted at this time. This list is updated frequently as applications, course attendance, test scores, and payments are processed. Please note that Lake Service Provider training courses and permit applications are on-going.
- For more information on the Lake Service Provider trainings, visit [www.dnr.state.mn.us/lsp/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lsp/index.html).

### **AIS Prevention Grants**

- **Watercraft Inspection Grants**—Application process is now open for these grants and can be found on line.
  - **LGU Inspection Grants**—These grants are available to LGUs who have entered into a Delegation Agreement with the State and can be used to help pay for the watercraft inspectors as part of the LGUs watercraft inspection program. Approximately \$130,000 is available this year.
  - **DNR watercraft inspection Grants**—Lake Associations, citizen groups, and local units of government can all apply for these

grants. The granting process awards applicants additional hours of DNR inspections on the priority accesses.

- Public Awareness Grants—Application process will be open late fall.
  - Grants for existing materials such as signs, radio announcements, public service announcements.
  - Grants for custom design projects. Approximately \$75,000 available this year for custom public Awareness grants.

### **AIS Prevention and Management Planning**

- In 2009 the Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council developed an Invasive Species Management Plan. The strategies, and actions outlined in the plan provide a structure that, if supported and advanced through individual or cooperative actions, will further the effective management of invasive species across all lands, waters, and jurisdictions in the State of Minnesota.
- Some LGUs have begun developing AIS plans for their jurisdictions'. The DNR is available to provide technical assistance to LGU's interested developing a local plan to help respond to AIS issues.
- In addition to the Statewide Invasive Species Management Plan, as part of a federal funding requirement, the DNR is currently developing a response plan. This plan will outline actions needed to address the management and prevention of invasive species in Minnesota.

### **Management**

- Management Grants—Application process will be available early 2013. These grants are given to permit holders for the control of Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly Leaf Pondweed and Flowering Rush. The application process has been move up to the beginning of the calendar year to avoid any timing issues related to another early spring. In 2013 the DNR will have \$900,000 available to give out in grants.
- The AIS management program is in the process of reviewing the effectiveness of various treatments to help refine the program implementation.
- The AIS management program is also reviewing the permitting and granting process to identify any further efficiencies that can be made.

### **Legislative outcome**

#### Inspections of Water-related Equipment (M.S. 84D.105)

- DNR can enter into delegation agreements with tribal and local governments to authorize mandatory inspection programs at public water access sites or in locations that allow for servicing multiple water bodies (approved plan required).

#### Property Owners

- Boat lifts, docks, swim rafts, and related equipment that are removed from any water body may not be placed into another water body for at least 21 days (M.S. 84D.10, Subd. 4).

#### Boating

- A requirement to have an AIS rules decal on all watercraft was passed in 2011 and then replaced with an AIS trailer decal in 2012. A person must complete training to obtain an

AIS trailer decal and this requirement does not become effective until July 1, 2015 (M.S. 84D.13).

Service Provider Permits and Training (M.S. 84D.108)

- Expanded definition of Lake Service provider (M.S. 84D.01 Subd 15A)

Penalties (M.S. 84D.13)

- Civil penalties/amounts were generally doubled effective July 1, 2012.

Regulation:

- **Expedited rule**—An expedited emergency rule is being adopted that designates several additional nonnative species into invasive species classifications:
  - **Prohibited Invasive Species**—faucet snail, large scale silver carp, quagga mussel, red swamp crayfish, and western mosquito fish
  - **Regulated Invasive Species**—Banded mystery snail