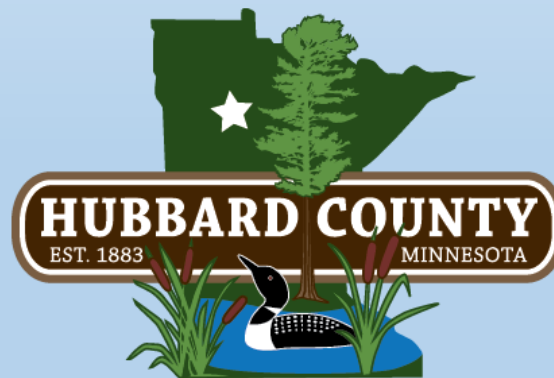


# 2024 Hubbard County Watercraft Inspection Program

Aaron Anderson  
Environmental Services



# Overview

- Watercraft Inspection Program Outlook
- Outreach Objectives
- State AIS Updates
- Decontamination Station Update



# Watercraft Inspection Program Outlook

- **Funding:**

- Lake Associations & Organizations

- 20 donors

- \$132,224

- Townships & Cities

- 13 donors

- \$47,810

- Total:

- \$180,034



# Watercraft Inspection Program Outlook

- **Inspection Schedule Basics**

- **14,400** total inspection hours
  - 7,199 state-funded hours
  - 7,201 supplemental-funded hours
- Inspection season runs from May 11<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>
- 35 accesses covered / 33 lakes
- Inspection hours focused heavily on weekends and holidays

# Watercraft Inspection Program Outlook

- **Staffing:**

- Goal: Have 45 inspectors on staff
- Currently: 33 inspectors ready for fishing opener
- An additional 10 are anticipated to be ready by May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Conducted Level 1 training on April 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Will be sending inspectors to more trainings on 5/13 & 5/18

**Know somebody who would be interested in becoming a watercraft inspector? Contact:**

 **Always There Staffing, Inc.**

**Office: 218-444-6533**

# 2024 Outreach Objectives

- Aqua Weed Stick program
- Starry Trek
- Resorts
- Radio & Newspaper
- Billboard



# 2024 Outreach Objectives

- **Aqua Weed Sticks – HCCOLA partnership**
  - Continuing a pilot initiated by HC COLA in 2022
  - Will be placing weed-removal tools at nearly every access in the county again in 2024
    - Boaters can take a proactive role in AIS prevention
    - Create good habits!
  - 70 accesses covered in 2023. Twenty-two sticks went missing.
    - We'll see if this improves, worsens, or holds steady
  - Weed sticks will start being placed next week



# 2024 Outreach Objectives

- **Starry Trek 2024 – August 10<sup>th</sup>**
  - 2023 Recap:
    - 22 public accesses sampled / 20 lakes
    - 10 volunteers participated
    - No new AIS found
  - Emphasize sampling on lakes experiencing higher boat traffic from SSW lakes.
    - Specific lakes TBD
  - Will be coordinating with HCCOLA and their “*Rake Toss Tuesdays*” initiative.





# 2024 Outreach Objectives

- **Resorts – HCCOLA partnership**
  - Actively promote the AIS program to local resorts
    - Create and re-establish contacts
    - Promote resources and services available
  - Focus on zebra mussels and walleye impacts
    - Emphasizing the 2020 Gretchen J. A. Hansen et al study:
      - The presence of ZM and SWF appears to reduce first-year walleye growth up to 14% and 12% respectively.



Images Courtesy of MNDNR



# 2024 Outreach Objectives

- **Radio and Newspaper**

- Radio ads promoting the decontamination unit & AIS prevention
  - Beginning the week leading up to fishing opener
- Newspaper articles highlighting seasonally relevant AIS topics
  - Spring – Education / Summer – Water / Fall – Weeds
  - Respond to AIS issues as they arise



# 2024 Outreach Objectives

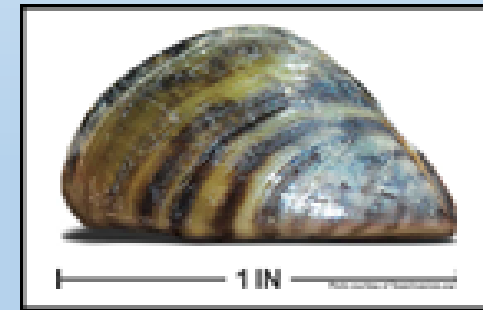
- **Billboard** – *HCCOLA partnership*



US HWY 71 (by Ken's Auto) Over 1.2 million impressions/year.

# State AIS Updates – Local 2023 Recap

- Notable 2023 additions to the Infested Waters List:
  - Blackduck, Beltrami County (SSW)
  - Long, Hubbard County (SSW)
  - Plantagenet, Hubbard County (ZM)
  - North Twin, Beltrami County (SSW)
- Long Lake
  - SSW Confirmed mid-August (south access)
- Plantagenet
  - ZM Confirmed late June



# State AIS Updates

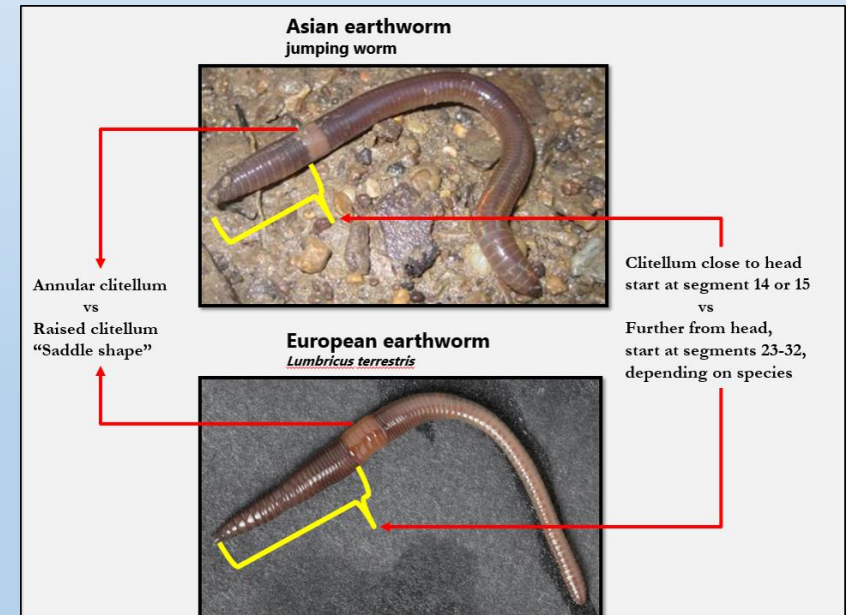
- New Invasive Species in Minnesota: ***SIGNAL CRAYFISH***
- ***Confirmed in Lake Winona/Douglas County***
  - Native to the Pacific Northwest/Columbia River Drainage
  - LARGE crayfish: Grow up to 7 inches long
  - Distributed through the pet trade
  - Classified as a *UNLISTED NONNATIVE (at this time)*
    - Permit required to import live animals into the state
    - Legal to own
    - Illegal to release into the wild



Images courtesy of MNDNR

# State AIS Updates

- Re-classified Invasive Species in Minnesota: ***JUMPING WORMS***
- ***Confirmed in Minnesota in 2006***
  - **Effective July 1, 2024**
  - Classified as a ***PROHIBITED INVASIVE SPECIES***
    - Misdemeanor to possess, import, purchase, transport or introduce (except under a permit)
    - This classification will prohibit the sale of jumping worms/slow the spread



Images courtesy of University of Minnesota

# Decontamination Station

- Hubbard County **FREE** Decontamination Station – Open for fishing opener
  - Located between K-Bid and Transfer Station – follow signage
  - By appointment 7 days a week:
    - **218-616-1631**
    - **10:00 AM – 6:00 PM**
    - **Opening May 11th**

**FREE Watercraft Decontamination**



May-September (exact start/end dates vary)  
Available 7 days a week by appointment  
Open 10:00 am — 6:00 pm  
On-Call phone: **218-616-1631**

**Location:**  
812 Henrietta Ave. S, Park Rapids  
(Between K-Bid and the Hubbard County Transfer Station)

Aquatic Invasive Species Program

**Clean. Drain. Dispose.**



# Questions?

## Contact information:

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Park Rapids, MN 56470

218-732-3890

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