

# Preventing the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species



## PARTNERING WITH LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT



Minnesota Dept. Natural Resources  
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# The conservation challenge of aquatic invasive species?

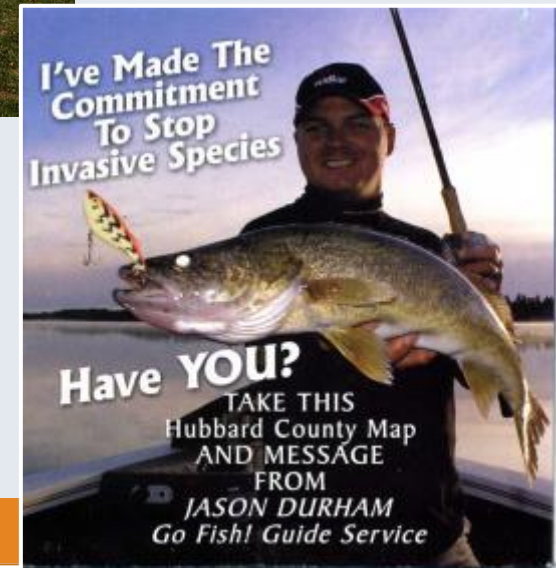




# Multiple levels of partners needed – tribal, state, county, lake association, citizens



- **Legislature – policy and funding**
- **DNR – statewide prevention and containment**
- **Local Govt. and organizations – local actions to shield**
- **Boater / angler – personal responsibility**



# AIS Prevention Aid

- A new bill will provide \$10 million in new County Program Aid to “prevent the introduction of or limit the spread of invasive species at all accesses sites within the county”
- These funds are paid by the Department of Revenue
- The DNR will be hiring two new positions to provide technical guidance on AIS prevention plans to counties and two new training positions to train county staff performing watercraft inspections

# Prevention Efforts

- Examples of Strategies:
  - Regulations
  - **Enforcement**
  - **Watercraft Inspections**
  - **Public Awareness**
  - **Signage**
  - Permits and Conditions



# Enforcement Efforts



- Local peace officers can enforce AIS laws, must attend training to issue civil citations



# Watercraft Inspection

## What do inspectors do?

- Educate the public about AIS
- Inspect Watercraft and deny launch if necessary
- Gather data

## Two Levels of Authorized Watercraft Inspector

- Both conduct inspections, only level 2 can decontaminate watercraft with high pressure, high heat equipment

## Who can hire authorized watercraft inspectors?

- DNR
- Local Units of Government



# Watercraft Inspection

## How do Local Units of Government hire Watercraft Inspectors?

- Complete a delegation agreement with the MN DNR
- Complete a plan for where to place inspectors, including which level
- Hire inspectors and have them trained by the MN DNR
- Deploy inspectors (schedule, supervise and manage)

There are two types of programs an LGU can have with a delegation agreement:

- Watercraft inspections at the public access
- Watercraft inspections within a geographic area- this program requires a comprehensive plan that addresses all requirements listed in 84D.105 (g)



# Watercraft Inspection

What is a delegation agreement?

- Delegates the MN DNR's watercraft inspection authority to the LGU
- Requires the LGU to be fully responsible for its own watercraft inspection program including legally and financially
- Inspectors must be staff of the LGU or can be hired through a staffing agency



# Watercraft Inspection

## Volunteers or AIS ambassadors

- Local citizens can also volunteer to do AIS education at the public water access
- The DNR provides training for all volunteers, anyone who will be at a DNR access is required to take the training and pass a background check

- AIS ambassadors are staff who are hired by an LGU but are not authorized, they obtain permission to be at DNR accesses through a grant process

**Volunteers and Ambassadors are not Inspectors:**



# Public Awareness

Local Units of Government can create public awareness through:

- Signage (at places other than the watercraft access)
- Public Service announcements
- Radio and News ads
- Stock images, text and products are available on the DNR Website



Grants available at:  
[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic\\_invasive/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic_invasive/index.html)

# Public water access signs

Signs for Public Water Accesses are available through a sign grant from the MN DNR:

- [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic\\_invasive/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic_invasive/index.html)



**HELP  
STOP  
AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**

To avoid spreading aquatic invasive species

**BEFORE launching ... BEFORE leaving:**

- **Remove** aquatic plants and aquatic animals
- **Drain** lake or river water away from the landing
- **Dispose** of unwanted live bait in the trash

**It's the Law ... Do Not:**

- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on public roads
- Launch a watercraft or place a trailer in the water if it has aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species attached
- Transport watercraft without draining water, removing the drain plug, and opening water-draining devices

Minnesota Department • of Natural Resources





# Questions?



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