

THE CASUAL OBSERVER

A Beginner's Look at the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network & Clean Boats, Clean Waters



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Wisconsin Lakes Partnership



Science



Citizens



Education

AIS in Wisconsin



What are invasives?

- Non-native species that can “take over”
- Not all non-native species are invasive
- Successful because:
 - No natural predators, parasites, etc.
 - Native species can't hide, compete, or fight back
 - Often aggressive, prolific, and mature early

How do they get to WI?

- Shipping - ballast water
- Intentional introduction - stocking
- Canals - migration from the ocean
- Nursery industry
- Anglers/Bait industry
- Aquaculture
- Aquarium trade



How do they spread?



- Boaters
- Anglers
- Other water users (sea planes, SCUBA, etc)
- Water garden & aquarium owners
- Natural dispersal



Why do we care?

- Economic impacts
 - Sport and commercial fishing
 - Tourism
 - Water users & property owners
- Ecological impacts
 - Native fish, invertebrates, plants impacted
- Recreational impacts
 - Boating
 - Angling

Wisconsin's AIS Program

- Education & Outreach
- Watercraft Inspection
- Lake Monitoring
- Purple Loosestrife Biological Control
- Aquatic Invasive Species Grants
- Research
- Rules to Prevent Spread

Wisconsin's AIS Program

- Why volunteer monitoring?
 - Know their lakes
 - Can cover more lakes than agency staff
- Result so far – SUCCESS!
 - Many citizen inspectors trained
 - Most mystery snail & EWM finds

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

- Watercraft inspection program
- Adopted by state in 2004
- Trains citizens to be watercraft inspectors
- ~2,000 inspectors trained



Clean Boats, Clean Waters

- What do trained inspectors do?

- **Educate** about AIS & how they're spread
- Help folks **check equipment** for plants & water



- **Collect information** on behaviors & awareness
- **Report data** into online database (SWIMS)

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

- What can casual observers do?
 - Share AIS information
 - Stock kiosk with AIS publications
 - Hand out brochures to boaters
 - Clear landing of plant material
 - Look for suspicious plants around landing



Citizen Lake Monitoring Network



Becoming a casual observer

Differences – CBCW & CLMN



- Protecting lake from AIS
- Preventing AIS from spreading to another lake
- Defined hours (high use periods)
- A lot of contact with public
- Monitoring along shoreline near landings



- Checking to see if AIS got into lake
- Some defined monitoring times (based upon AIS monitoring for)
- Minimal contact with public
- Monitoring along shorelines, beaches, shallow water areas, & deep water areas
- Casual observer vs True Monitor

Casual Observer vs Monitor

- Casual observer

- More general observer (simplified training)
- Do not follow protocols
- Select species they monitor for
- Often do not do data entry
- Seldom report if they do NOT find AIS

- Trained monitor

- More technical training (longer & more detailed)
- Monitoring follows standard monitoring protocols (meshes with DNR protocols)
- Select species they monitor for
- Enter data into SWIMS
- Report if they do NOT find AIS

Why Conduct AIS Monitoring?

- Protect your property value
- Protect your lake
- Cost savings – catch the invasive species early and save money controlling that invasive
- Protect neighboring lakes
- Because you can!!



CLMN AIS Monitoring

- What do we want to help you do?
 - Become familiar with common plants & animals in your lake.
 - Look for changes in plant communities.
 - Keep an eye out for “new” snails, clams and other critters.
 - Let us know if you see changes or new plants and animals.

CLMN AIS Monitoring



- Where to look for AIS –
 - Beaches
 - Launches
 - Marinas
 - Camps
 - High use private landings
 - Inlets
 - Entire Lake

CLMN AIS Monitoring

- What equipment/materials might I need?
 - A rake, either one or two sided, on a rope or on a pole.
 - An underwater view scope
 - Waders or hip boots
 - Snorkeling gear
 - A boat
 - Crayfish traps, nets, zebra mussel substrate sampler, beetle rearing materials, weevil sampling gear
 - Identification & information pamphlets





Thanks so much for all your efforts!