

What's New in Minnesota – Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention and Management



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Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention
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Today's Topics

- Background on DNR's AIS Program
- Brief Overview of Minnesota AIS Laws
- DNR Enforcement
 - Enforcement Officers
 - Roadside AIS Check Stations
 - Zebra Mussel Detection K9 Unit
 - Watercraft Inspection Program
- Required Training Programs
 - Lake Service Provider Permits & Training
 - Public Training & Trailer Decal
- Prevention & Management Programs
 - DNR AIS Grants
 - Local AIS Prevention Aid

Background

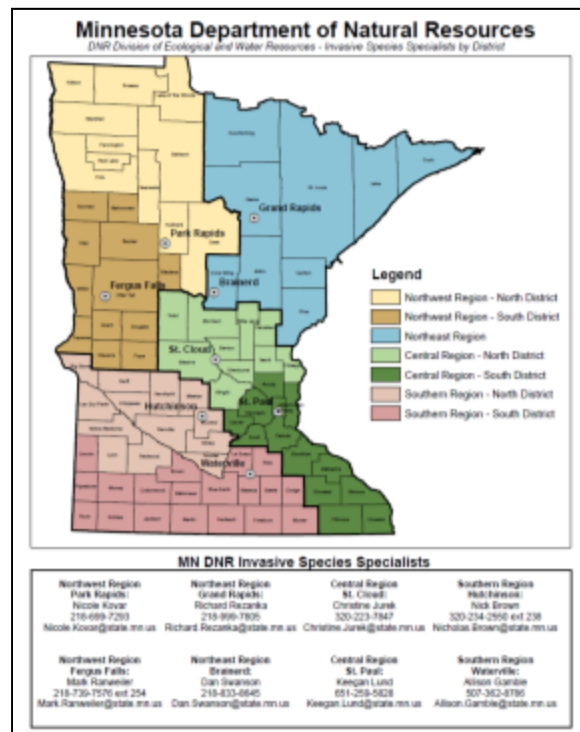
Enforcement

Required Training

Prevention/Management



Background on Minnesota DNR's AIS Program



Background Enforcement Required Training Prevention/Management

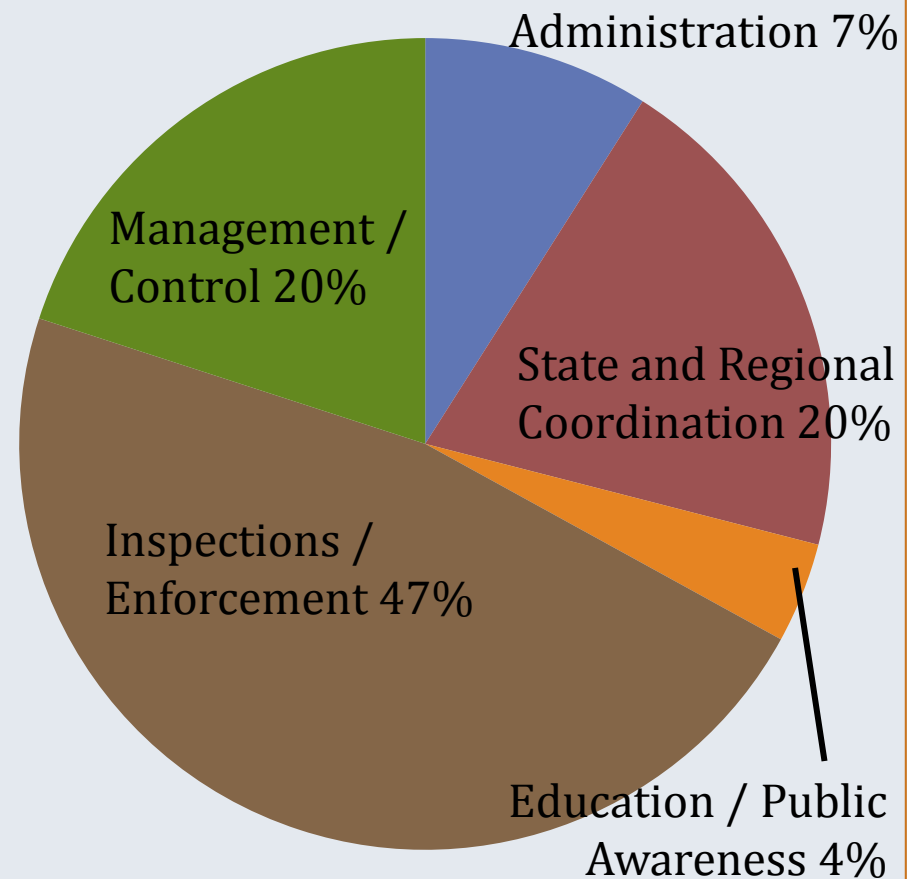


Minnesota DNR Invasive Species Program

Program Goals:

1. Prevent the introduction of new invasive species into Minnesota;
2. Prevent the spread of invasive species within Minnesota;
3. Reduce the impacts caused by invasive species to Minnesota's ecology, society, and economy.

Fiscal Year 2014 Invasive Species Program Spending



Overview of Minnesota AIS Laws



Background

Enforcement

Required Training

Prevention/Management



Aquatic Invasive Species Laws

Minnesota Statute, Section 84D:

- Species-specific regulations (prohibited, regulated)
- Infested waters
- Transport of water, aquatic plants, regulated/prohibited species, and water-related equipment
 - 21-day dry time for docks/lifts
 - Drain plugs/devices must be removed/open during transport



Background

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Aquatic Invasive Species Laws cont.

Minnesota Statute, Section 84D

- Inspection of water related equipment
- Inspector authority
- Service provider permit
 - Now includes decontamination services and rent/lease water related equipment.

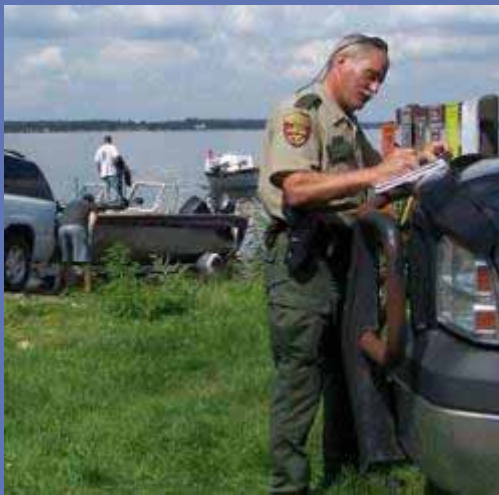


Minnesota Statute, Section 86B

- Requires mandatory AIS educational course and testing program for anyone trailering watercraft or water-related equipment in Minnesota.
- A person that completes the training will receive and display an AIS decal on their trailer.
- Under review during current legislative session



Penalties



* Similar laws

Civil Citation	MN Penalty	WI Penalty*
Transport aquatic plants on public road	\$100	\$232
Launch with plants attached	\$200	\$295
Transport or possess prohibited species	\$500	\$295
Launch into non-infested waters with AIS attached	\$500	\$295 (any nav. waters)
Failure to drain water/have plug out	\$100	\$243 (drain only)
Transport infested water w/o permit	\$200	N/A
Subsequent offenses	Amounts double	Crime - fined no less than \$700 and/or 6 months
Criminal Citation	Penalty	
Misdemeanor	Up to \$1,000 and/or 90 days	
Gross Misdemeanor	Up to \$1,000 and/or 90 days	

Differences in State Laws

Minnesota

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

Wisconsin

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IT'S THE LAW

PENALTIES MAY EXCEED \$2000

Before launching and before leaving **YOU MUST:**

- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.*

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Prevent the spread of invasive species, it's the law

*Limited exceptions apply. Visit WWW.DNR.WI.GOV and search for "BAIT LAWS."

Background Enforcement Required Training Prevention/Management



DNR Enforcement



**ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
ROADSIDE CHECKPOINTS
ZEBRA MUSSEL DETECTION K9 UNIT
WATERCRAFT INSPECTION PROGRAM**



Background

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Prevention/Management



Enforcement Background & Highlights



Conservation Officers

Water Resource Enforcement Officers (WREOs)

- Ensure preservation, enhancement, and restoration of water resources through enforcement, education, and communication (9 statewide)
- Administer, regulate, and enforce the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)
- Enforce and facilitate enforcement of AIS regulations:
 - Conduct roadside checkpoints and work crews
 - Conduct AIS trainings for local law enforcement
 - Assist with lake service provider trainings



During 2014, DNR conservation officers provided 19,144 hours of AIS enforcement and education, resulting in over 15,790 contacts.

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Law Compliance Checks	5,463	17,700	7,974	13,461
Citations	121	998	405	366
Written Warnings	427	1,550	688	847
Violation Rate	18.0%	14.4%	13.7%	9.0%

Background **Enforcement** Required Training Prevention/Management



Roadside AIS Check Stations



- In 2011 statute authority was granted to DNR Enforcement Division to perform AIS check stations.
- All AIS check stations were staffed with enforcement officers /supervisors, invasive species staff, and a mobile decontamination unit.
- Check stations proved to be an effective tool in detecting AIS violations throughout the state.

	2012	2013	2014
# Checkpoints	9	18	27
Hours of operation	44	79	117
# Inspections	139	322	625
Average delay – no violation (minutes)	3.9	3.3	3.0
Average delay – with violation (minutes)	10.7	10.8	10.7
Violation rate	31.3%	20.19%	17.0%



Zebra Mussel Detecting K9 Unit

- The MN DNR Enforcement Division added three new K-9 officers in 2013
- Trained to sniff out zebra mussels that might be hiding on boats, trailers and other gear and equipment recently in the water.
- They will assist all Conservation Officers to improve efficiency and thoroughness of water-related equipment inspections.



Background

Enforcement

Required Training

Prevention/Management



Video: Zebra Mussel Detecting K9 Unit

*zebra mussel
detecting dogs*

<https://youtu.be/lHk-aVQebhw>

Background **Enforcement** Required Training Prevention/Management



Watercraft Inspection Program

Role of the Watercraft Inspector

1. Educate boaters
2. Inspect watercraft
3. Survey boaters on AIS knowledge and activities
4. Provide materials on AIS
5. Provide decontaminations of watercraft



Types of Watercraft Inspectors

- Authorized
 - **Level 1:** Inspect watercraft visually and tactilely.
 - **Level 2:** Same as Level 1 and trained to operate a portable decontamination equipment.
- Volunteers & Ambassadors
 - No legal authority, education only
 - DNR Volunteer
 - AIS Ambassador

Required Training

- Full day, led by DNR trainers
- Can be either DNR staff or staff of local government unit (LGU) that has signed a delegation agreement with the DNR

Background

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Watercraft Inspection



Authority

- Require inspections, incoming/exiting
- Deny launch
 - If a person refuses an inspection, or doesn't remove water or AIS.
- Require decontamination

DNR Program

- Program supervisor and regional staff plus:
 - 100 Level One interns hired
 - 46 Level Two seasonal staff hired
 - 10,000 hours statewide
- Hours distributed based primarily on presence of zebra mussels and lake/access use.
- 23 decontamination units
- Additional 10,000 hours in grants

LGU Programs

- Must enter into delegation agreement with the DNR
- Oversight by LGU
- \$150,000 available annually in DNR grants

DNR Inspections	2014	2013	2012
Total inspections	120,000	123,000	102,600
Total inspection hours	68,000	66,800	65,880
Inspections per hour	1.76	1.84	1.56

Background

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Required Training Programs



LAKE SERVICE PROVIDER PERMIT AND TRAINING PUBLIC TRAINING AND TRAILER DECAL



Lake Service Provider Permit & Training



Minnesota Statute, Section 84D.108

"Service provider" means an individual who or entity that:

- (1) **decontaminates, installs, or removes water-related equipment or structures into or from waters of the state** for hire or as a service provided as a benefit of membership in a yacht club, boat club, marina, or similar organization; or
- (2) **rents or leases water-related equipment** that will be used in, placed into, or removed from waters of the state.



Background

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To Get Their Permit



Lake service provider (LSP) owners or managers must:

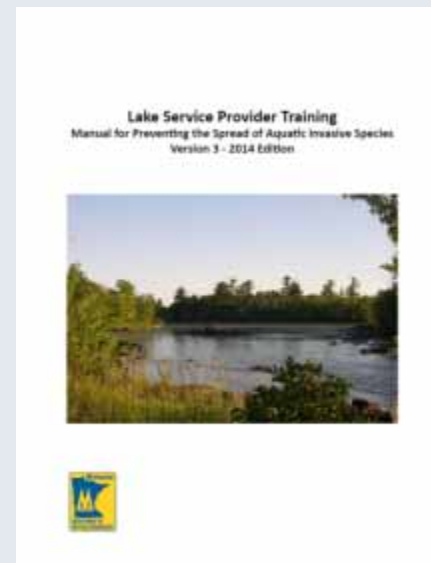
- Register online for a service provider training
- Pay the \$50 application and testing fee online
- Attend AIS training for lake service providers
- Complete and pass the service provider test
- Must re-certify every 3 years



Lake Service Provider Training

Training Goals

1. How to get permit
2. Legal definition of a service provider
3. Common threats from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
4. Laws related to service providers
5. Best practices to reduce AIS spread
6. How to use the training manual and follow the permit



Background

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Required Training

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Permit Basics



- One permit per business
- Additional people may be listed if they attend and pass the training
- Permit/vehicle stickers good for 3 calendar years
- Permit is non-transferable and can be revoked, denied or modified
- Businesses can not legally provide services until they receive a permit and vehicle stickers from the MN DNR

Civil Citation	Penalty
LSP install or remove water related equipment for hire w/o permit	\$175
LSP fail to display LSP vehicle sticker on driver's windshield	\$175
LSP or LSP employees working without completing training	\$175

Employee Online Training



Firstname
Lastname
has completed
Aquatic Invasive
Species training for

2014
2015
2016

Lake Service Provider
Employees

- The business owner is responsible for having all staff working under their permit trained and certified.
- Staff must take an online training
- Staff will receive a digital wallet-sized LSP employee certificate with their name on it.
- Staff must to print and keep a copy of the certificate in their possession at all times when working.

Lake Service Provider Employee Online Training

2014 training will be available in January.

If you work for a **Lake Service Provider** business, you are required by law to complete an online Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) training course before you work in waters of the state.

Course Basics

- The course is free and takes about an hour to complete.
- You are tested throughout the training and must answer the questions correctly to pass the course (but you may attempt the question an unlimited number of times).
- At the end of the course a certificate with your name on it is generated in a pop-up window. The certificate is the size of a business card. **Print the certificate and keep in your possession at all times when working in waters of the state.**
- Your certificate is also automatically saved on the DNR website. **If you need to save or print more copies, just log back in to your account to find the saved certificate.**
- Your training certificate is good for three calendar years. If you take the training in 2013, then your certificate is good for 2013, 2014, and 2015. In 2015, you would need to take the training again and obtain a new certificate.
- Your training certificate travels with you between employers. Even if you work for multiple lake service providers, you still only need to do this training once every three years.

Computer System Requirements for the training

- **Important: Pop-ups must be enabled on your internet browser. Pop-up blockers will prevent you from obtaining your certificate. Make sure you do not have a pop-up blocker on BEFORE YOU START THE TRAINING.**
- One of the following web browsers:
 - Internet Explorer 8 or 9
 - Firefox 7.x or later
 - Safari 4 or later
 - Google Chrome (recommended for IEcs or if you are having trouble with Adobe Flash Player)
- **Adobe Flash Player 11** or later
- JavaScript and cookies must be enabled

Instructions for the training (MUST READ)

- You must complete the training in one sitting. The training presentation will take approximately one hour. **If you exit the training before completion you will have to start again from the beginning. Your test question answers will not be saved.**



Background Enforcement **Required Training** Prevention/Management



Lake Service Provider Resources Online



Lake Service Provider (LSP) Training and Permit Program

New laws passed by the Minnesota legislature in 2011 require lake service provider businesses to complete training and obtain a permit.

Businesses that are defined by Minnesota law as lake service providers need to have the owner or manager attend aquatic invasive species training and apply for a lake service provider permit every three years.



- [Is my business an LSP?](#)
- [What's new for current LSPs?](#)
- Are you an LSP employee that needs online AIS training? [Learn more](#)
- [Register for 2014 trainings](#)

Lake Service Provider Business Owners

[Is my business an LSP?](#)

Hiring a Lake Service Provider

[List of permitted LSP businesses](#)

More Information

[Minnesota aquatic invasive species laws](#)

[Background](#)

[Enforcement](#)

[Required Training](#)

[Prevention/Management](#)



Public Training and Trailer Decal*

Minnesota Statute, Section 86B.13

- “...develop an **educational course and testing program** that address identification of [AIS] and best practices to prevent the spread of [AIS] when moving water-related equipment...”
- “issue an aquatic invasive species **trailer decal** for each trailer owned by a person that satisfactorily completes the required course of instruction.”
- “A person **may not transport** watercraft or water-related equipment [...] with a trailer **unless the person has an aquatic invasive species trailer decal** issued under this section.”



*statute is under revision during the current legislative session

Statute Goals*



*statute is under revision during the current legislative session

- Anyone trailering water-related equipment in Minnesota should know and understand AIS laws and how to prevent the spread
- Accomplished through an online course, test, and trailer decal. They would:
 - Pay a small fee
 - ✦ Goes to the business that created the course
 - Take a 20 minute online training module
 - Pass 10 test questions at the end
 - ✦ Take it as many times as necessary to pass
 - Receive trailer decal(s) in the mail – which proves that they passed the course
 - Repeat every 3 years

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Public Training and Trailer Decal

Past Efforts and Future Directions

- 2011 – “trailer sticker” with AIS laws listed on it
- 2012 – sticker replaced with AIS training and decal requirement (effective July 1st, 2015)
 - 2013 DNR awarded a bid to a local company to create the online course – planned launch in 2015
- 2015 - two bills introduced in the house and senate – one to change and one to repeal the law/program
 - DNR postponed launching the program until the legislature determines how to proceed.
- Currently - the legislature is working on an alternate solution



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AIS Prevention & Management Programs



DNR AIS GRANTS LOCAL AIS PREVENTION AID

MN DNR Invasive Species Program
2015 Grant Application for Public Awareness Projects

Important information about this grant program:

- This is a non-reimbursable grant program.
- Grant funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The maximum amount for any grant is \$5,000.
- Proposals are due on Thursday, 11/12/14.** The deadline is 5:00 PM Central Standard Time (CST). Proposals received after this deadline will not be considered.
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Department of Natural Resources, State of Minnesota
1500 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 200, Minneapolis, MN 55412
Telephone: 612-297-2600 | Fax: 612-297-2601

This grant is available only to eligible counties. It is not available to cities, towns, villages, or other local government entities.

Eligible counties: Anoka, Benton, Big Lake, Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Cass, Chisago, Clay, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dakota, DeKalb, Douglas, Fillmore, Goodhue, Grant, Hennepin, Houston, Itasca, Jackson, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Lincoln, Lyon, Marshall, Martin, McLeod, Mower, Murray, Norman, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Ramsey, Red Lake, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Scott, Sherburne, St. Louis, Stearns, Swift, Todd, Wabasha, Wadena, Waseca, Winona, Wright, Yellowknife.

County: _____

County seat: _____

Project name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Project description: _____

Estimated total project cost: _____

Requested grant funds: _____

Notes: Only 50% of your project costs will be reimbursable. Grant and grant amount. Only request a grant for 50% of your estimated expenses.

Association of Minnesota Counties | Minnesota Inter-County Association | Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION AID

Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a list of frequently asked questions and answers that have been asked about the new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid dollars that will go out to counties to help them with their AIS programs. This document will be updated as more information becomes available over time.

To view the statutory language, please refer to MN Statute 477A.19.

HELP STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

- Boat cleaning:** Clean your boat and trailer before leaving the water.
- Drain:** Drain all water from your boat and trailer before leaving the water.
- Check:** Check for and remove any AIS before leaving the water.

It's the Law - It's Free!



DNR AIS Grant Program



- Watercraft Inspection (ranked, 50% cost share)
 - 10,000 DNR intern hours
 - \$150,000 to local government units (Max \$4k/waterbody, \$12k/grant)
- Aquatic Invasive Species Control Projects
 - \$675,000 in 2015, awarded on first come-first served basis
 - Control of curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, or flowering rush; typically \$100/acre granted.
 - Grants are at least \$1,000 and no more than \$30,000



Background

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DNR AIS Grant Program cont.

- DNR Signs at Water Accesses (free)
 - Provides **Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!** signs to successful applicants at no cost.
- Public Awareness (50% cost share)
 - Help local entities personalize and distribute AIS prevention information / educational material to targeted audiences



AIS Prevention Aid Program

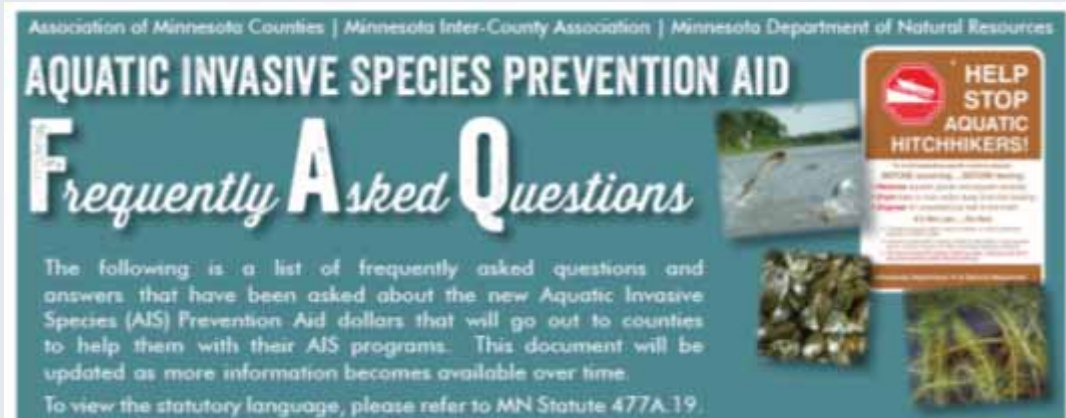


Minnesota Statute, Section 477A.19

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid

“... 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.”

County's received
payments starting
in July 2014



Background

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AIS Prevention Aid Program cont.

- **County Role**

- Complete oversight to allocate the funding in accordance with Minnesota Statute 447 A.19.

- **DNR Planner Role**

- Repository for submitted plans and resolutions
- Provide technical guidance to counties as they draft, implement, and evaluate their AIS prevention programs
- Facilitate collaboration amongst counties
- Build relationships between counties and the DNR

- **Distribution**

- **Statewide:**

- \$4.5 million in 2014
- \$10 million each year thereafter

- **County:**

- 50% based on watercraft trailer launches
- 50% based on watercraft trailer parking spaces

- **Range (2015 allocation):**

- Highest: \$680,790
- Lowest: \$2,308

AIS Prevention Aid Program - Highlights



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Summary



Prevent the introduction of new invasive species into Minnesota;

Prevent the spread of invasive species within Minnesota;

Reduce the impacts caused by invasive species to Minnesota's ecology, society, and economy.

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