

## Reporting a Suspicious Species

Regardless of how AIS is found on a new waterbody it must be reported properly. The following are the steps to take to create a good report.

1. Record the exact location. GPS coordinates are best but you can note if the species was found at an access or the nearest address.
2. Take Pictures. Good pictures include: the AIS in place, close ups, distinguishing features such as leaves, flowers or markings. Be sure to include something for scale in some pictures, your hand/fingernail, a pen, coins or a ruler are all useful. See following page for examples
3. Grab a sample. Label a plastic bag with the location, date and your name. Put the sample in the bag with the water or isopropyl alcohol and keep it refrigerated.
4. Provide your contact information so MNDNR can follow-up.
5. Call Christine Jurek (MNDNR) at 320-223-7847 for further instructions.

There are computer and phone applications that can assist with AIS reporting. On a desktop the application is called EDDMAppS Midwest, on a phone the application is called Great Lake Early Detection Network. Even if you file a report using these applications is still best to call Christine Jurek so that action can be taken as soon as possible.

## Confirmation

Each incident with AIS is a little be different but in general you can expect the following actions to take place.

1. Once a report is filed the MNDNR will follow up with the reporting individual to get more information
2. The MNDNR will likely make a site visit to view the AIS in place. It is best if the reporting individual can meet with the MNDNR for this visit
3. The MNDNR will confirm the species identification
4. The MNDNR will post an alert sign at access if any new AIS are identified
5. Depending on the species MNDNR may conduct a survey of the littoral area of the lake. This survey is most likely to occur for starry stonewort or zebra mussels. This survey is subject to staff availability
6. The MNDNR will make a recommendation as to whether a population is “treatable”.



*Figure 1. A picture of starry stonewort in place. Pair this with a close up shot to best identify the species like Figure 2.*



*Figure 2. This is a good picture to show identifying features of starry stonewort. The bulbil identifies starry stonewort and the fingernail provides scale. Pair this with a in place photo like Figure 1.*