

# Wright County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management Plan 2017-2022



Guiding principle: this plan is outcome based and the action steps are organized by specific goals

## **Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force (2017)**

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### **Non-Voting Advisory Members**

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## **Executive Summary**

In 2014, the State of Minnesota passed legislation allocating 10 million dollars per year for the purpose of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The money is divided among Minnesota's 87 counties, each year Wright County receives approximately \$240,000. The County government has allocated the responsibility of these dollars to the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (WSWCD). The purpose of this plan is to justify the use of legislatively granted AIS prevention funds and guide efforts by other organizations that prevent the spread of AIS into Wright County's lakes and streams. Wright County will exercise any and all powers necessary to assure implementation of this plan and its tasks in order to preserve economic and environmental viability of Wright's water bodies.

WSWCD considers several different priority concerns regarding AIS (in order of importance): inspections, education, decontamination, treatment, ordinances/legislature and rapid response. In this Plan WSWCD lays out five tasks that will address these priority concerns. Each task has a set of action steps to be completed. The majority of action steps are to be completed annually but some are one time actions taking place during the time period of this plan.

The primary program in Wright County is our inspection program. Each year WSWCD works with a local lake service provider to hire inspectors which are stationed at public accesses throughout the county. This program has become the highest priority in Wright County because it addresses most of the priority concerns. Obviously this program inspects boats for AIS, but it is also an opportunity to offer some education to boaters. Decontamination is often encouraged regardless of the presence of AIS on the boat or trailer especially when leaving a known infested water. Due to the powers of the inspectors ordinances/legislature is enforced through this program. Finally, if AIS is found on a boat it can offer an opportunity for the rapid response process to begin. Other activities that take place in Wright County are educational advertising, education field days, pesticide treatment, and free decontamination service.

Draft 12/14/2016

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## **Introduction**

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are species that are not native to Minnesota and cause harm to economic prosperity, the environment, and human health. Some prevalent examples of these species include curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, rusty crayfish, New Zealand mud snail, starry stonewort, and zebra mussels. The spread of these species has led to habitat alteration, ecosystem degradation, and a loss of bio-diversity due to intensified competition for resources. AIS typically have little-to-no natural predators in their new environment, reproduce very quickly, and are more aggressive than native species. Along with negatively affecting aquatic wildlife, AIS impedes recreational opportunities and disrupt industrial use of public waters. Although great efforts are being made to eliminate invasives entirely from a water body, history shows that it is nearly impossible to eradicate a population. As a result, it is illegal to possess, transport, and/or introduce any aquatic plants or animals within Minnesota that are designated as “prohibited and regulated” invasive species by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR).

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton authorized the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid for counties [Chapter 308, HF3167: Omnibus tax bill. Article 1: Property Tax Aids and Credits. Section 11]. Counties funded for aquatic invasive species prevention aid are required to develop guidelines for use of proceeds and provide to DNR. In July 2014, \$5 million dollars was distributed to the 87 Minnesota counties. In 2015 and thereafter, that value increased to \$10 million. The distribution of funds is based 50% on the number of “watercraft trailer launches” and 50% on the number of “watercraft trailer parking spaces”. Wright County expects to receive approximately \$240,000 each year.

According to subdivision 3, the intent of these funds is “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. The guidelines set by the Wright County Board may include, but are not limited to, providing for site-level management, countywide awareness, and other procedures that the County finds necessary to achieve compliance”. Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (WSWCD) serves as the delegated unit to distribute AIS funds from the state.

This Wright AIS Prevention and Management Plan is in accordance with the goals set for in MN Statute 477 A. 19 and fulfills the December 31, 2016 deadline for submission to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

### *County Background Information*

Located in central Minnesota, Wright County County encompasses 18 townships, 16 cities, and 14 unincorporated communities with a total population of approximately 130,000 residents. The City of Buffalo, situated in eastern Wright County, is the County Seat. The County shares its

border with Stearns County and Sherburne County to the north, Carver and McLeod Counties to the south, Hennepin County to the east, and Meeker County to the west.

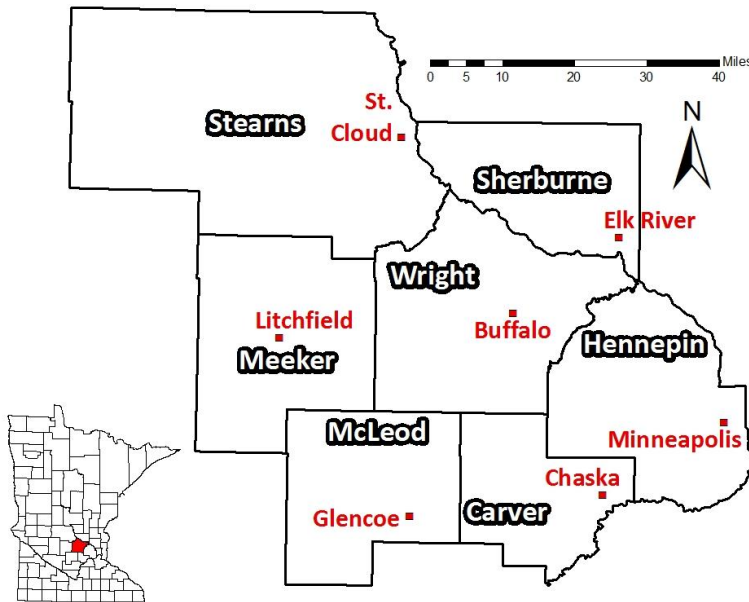


Figure 1. Wright County and Surrounding Counties

## Accomplishments in 2016

- WSWCD and several lake associations contracted with Anchor Boat and Dock, located in Annandale, to coordinate 14,000+ water craft inspections at public accesses
- Wright County purchased a decontamination unit and performed 400+ decontaminations
- 20 registered lake service providers in Wright County are in compliance with the MNDNR permitting process
- 13 lakes spent over \$1,000 to collect and ship zebra mussel plates to RMB Laboratory to check for AIS.
- WSWCD and CROW partnered to put education banners at 9 gas stations in Wright County
- WSWCD had a booth at the Wright County Fair which included education materials and information on AIS such as preserved specimens and brochures.
- 21 of Wright County's lakes associations and lake improvement districts (LIDs) partnered with local natural resource entities and local units of government to purchase chemicals and professional services for in-lake treatment of curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil.

## **Active Community Partners**

### *Lake associations*

Citizen based groups such as lake associations are an integral part of preventing the spread of AIS. Lake associations are responsible for controlling the AIS in their lake. In the event of a new introduction the lake association must coordinate response efforts, although assistance is available through WSWCD's Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan. In addition, lake associations are also responsible for permit applications to treat AIS already present in their lake. WSWCD strives to provide guidance and assistance for each of these efforts. WSWCD's treatment program provides funding for treating AIS already present.

Wright County has a well-established and active Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) that has been working with WSWCD to implement water quality improvement projects and AIS treatment. Many of the individuals are community leaders that routinely volunteer their own time, money, and energy to protect, treat, and monitor area lakes and streams. As AIS issues continue to move to the forefront, WSWCD and AIS prevention partners will continue to work closely with the COLA in an effort to continue their great work and gain more momentum in stopping the spread.

### *Clearwater River Watershed District*

Established in 1975 by citizen petition in order to address concerns with declining water quality in the Clearwater River Chain of Lakes, the Clearwater River Watershed District's (CRWD) mission is to promote, preserve and protect the water resources within the CRWD in order to maintain property values and quality of life. The CRWD is active in the prevention and management of AIS infestations, providing funding and technical assistance to local community groups working on AIS issues. Learn more about the CRWD at: [www.crwd.org](http://www.crwd.org).

### *Crow River Organization of Water*

The Crow River Organization of Water (CROW) was formed in 1999 as a result of heightened interest in the Crow River. A Joint Powers Agreement has been signed between all ten of the Counties with land in the Crow River Watershed. The CROW Joint Powers Board is made up of one representative from each of the County Boards who signed the agreement. The Counties involved in the CROW Joint Powers include Carver, Hennepin, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Pope, Renville, Sibley, Stearns and Wright.

## **Summary of Wright County's Priority Concerns**

These priorities were established by the Wright Water Task Force through a facilitated activity led by WSWCD. Use of a point system helped to quantify individuals' responses, the below categories are organized from most selected to less selected category of action.

1. Inspections (25 points)
2. Education (20 points)
3. Decontamination (17 points)



4. Treatment (16 points)
5. Ordinances/Legislature (15 points)
6. Rapid Response (7 points)

### *Short and Long Term Goals*

The Wright County Water Task Force defined the County's short and long term goals with robust discussion. "Short term" is defined as accomplishments that the group will pursue by 2020, while "long term" is beyond this first five year period. These long term goals may change as research advances, potential infestations increase, and/or additional mandates affect policy.

### **Short Term Goals**

1. Establish infrastructure and systems to help with prevention efforts.
2. Continue to build partnerships between WSWCD, lake association the Wright County COLA and lake service providers
3. Build an in-depth volunteer program to create longevity through a team of well-trained groups of people to work around the county.
4. Bolster efforts on smaller lakes that historically have not been actively addressed.

### **Long Term Goals**

1. Participate and attend conferences/forums in which entities and individuals can share knowledge and best management practices.
2. Identify similar counties and group AIS prevention efforts with the goal of enhancing programming.

## **Relationship to Other Plans**

Numerous completed studies illustrate the potential for economic and environmental harm caused by the infestation of aquatic invasive species. Although AIS issues are not included in the 2006-2017 Wright County Water Plan, the One Watershed One Plan for the North Fork of Crow River currently in progress will address AIS issues.

Currently the DNR has an established response plan for new infestations ([available online](#)) and WSWCD is in the process of creating its own Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan. Providing information on how to react to a new infestation is helpful to citizens in a difficult and stressful time. It can also offer Wright County constituents peace of mind knowing that reactions to new suspected infestations are quick and thorough.

## **Budgets**

WSWCD breaks the AIS budget into several different categories: education, treatment, decontamination, inspection, projects, and reserve/rapid response. Budget expenditures from 2016 are detailed in Table 1. Education dollars are spent on educational materials such as signs at gas stations and learning activities like the county fair. Treatment dollars are spent as a 50%

match to lake associations to apply pesticides to kill AIS present in their lake. Decontamination dollars are spent in the operation, maintenance, and labor associated with Wright County’s decontamination unit. Inspection dollars are spent on the training and labor to have level one inspectors at public access sites. Project dollars are spent on special projects. In 2016, this was a specialized filtration system between two lakes. This project ultimately fell through and the majority of the project dollars were not spent. At the time this plan was written no project dollars were planned to be allocated between 2017 and 2022. The reserve/rapid response dollars are used for an unexpected expenditures. For example in 2016 a new invasive species, starry stonewort, was confirmed in West Lake Sylvia. The infestation was deemed treatable and funds were distributed to assist with the treatment and equipment costs. The anticipated budget for 2017 is listed in Table 2, while future budgets are expected to be similar they will depend greatly on actual dollars granted, spending, and rollover.

Table 1. Budget expenditures from 2016.

<b>2016 Budget Breakdown</b>				
Total Funds: \$403,372.76				
<i>Category</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Spent</i>
Education	All Over Media- gas station/ bait shops signs/banners	\$40,000	10%	\$32,779.46
Weed Treatment	50% match to lake associations for pesticide application	\$100,000	25%	\$98,973.38
Decontamination	Purchase of decontamination unit	\$25,000	6%	\$18,195.25
Decontamination	1205 training and labor hours	\$35,000	9%	\$30,440.00
Decontamination	Supplies for decontamination unit: water fuel, parts	Not Budgeted	0%	\$2,826.37
Inspection	7365 training and labor hours	\$128,800	32%	\$129,570.00
Inspection	CROW oversight	\$20,000	5%	\$14,854.00

<b>2016 Budget Breakdown</b>				
Total Funds: \$403,372.76				
Projects	AIS Drum Filter	\$50,000	12%	\$4,500.00
Reserve/Rapid Response	New infestation response	Not Budgeted	0%	\$15,783.51
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$398,000.00</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>\$349,586.99</b>
<b>Total Funds Rollover:</b>				\$53,785.77

Table 2. Potential 2017-18 budget categories

<b>Potential 2017-18 Budget Breakdown</b>			
Total Funds: \$293,557.77			
<i>Category</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Education	All Over Media- gas station/ bait shops signs/banners	\$25,000	8%
Weed Treatment	50% match to lake associations for pesticide application	\$72,000	25%
Decontamination	1200 training and labor hours	\$32,000	11%
Decontamination	Supplies for decontamination unit: water fuel, parts	\$3,000	1%
Inspection	6000 training and labor hours	\$130,000	44%
Inspection	CROW oversight	\$15,000	5%
Reserve/Rapid Response	New infestation response	\$16,557	6%
Total		\$293,557	100%
<b>Estimated Roll Over</b>		<b>\$0.77</b>	

## Task 1: Addressing Wright County’s Needs

Understanding the extent of nearby threats is crucial to design and broaden efforts in a cohesive and effective manner. Movement and boat traffic to-and-from waterbodies needs to be considered in decision-making. Any relevant information about conditions inside and surrounding Wright County will guide the planning and allocation of resources for management, control, and prevention of additional infestations.

### *Current Lake Information*

The MNDNR maintains a list of infested waters throughout the State. As of November 10th, 2016, there are 40 known AIS infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil in Wright County two more than in 2014. One lake is known to be infested with starry stonewort, West Lake Sylvia. Three lakes in Wright County have known populations of zebra mussels Lake John, Clearwater Lake and East Lake Sylvia. Several lakes in Wright County, Fish Lake, Augusta Lake, Grass Lake and Weigand Lake do not have a known population of zebra mussels, but has been listed as infested with zebra mussels because they are connected to the Mississippi River or Clearwater Lake which have confirmed populations of zebra mussels. Recent confirmations of AIS in Wright and neighboring counties are listed in Table 3. Appendix C includes information about all of the lakes and rivers in Wright County including whether it has a public water access and/or any AIS infestations.

Table 3. Recent infestations of aquatic invasive species in Wright County and neighboring counties

County	Lake	Species	Year Confirmed
Wright	John	Zebra mussels	2015
Wright	East Sylvia	Zebra mussels	2016
Wright	West Sylvia	Starry stonewort	2016
Wright	Constance*	Eurasian watermilfoil	2016
Carver	Minnewashta	Zebra mussels	2016
Hennepin	Bryant	Zebra mussels	2015
Hennepin	Staring	Brittle naiad	2015
Hennepin	Staring	Eurasian watermilfoil	2015
Meeker	Stella	Eurasian watermilfoil	2015
Stearns	Koronis	Starry stonewort	2015
Stearns	Rice	Starry stonewort	2016
Stearns	Sylvia	Zebra mussels	2015

\*At the time this report was written Constance did not yet appear on infested waters list but WSWCD was informed of the infestation by the MNDNR on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### *AIS Plan and Program Prioritization Strategies*

Public input was essential to the development of this plan. Although natural resource professionals work closely with monitoring and improving the health of water bodies, local residents provide substantially more eyes and ears on the ground. Their perspective and buy-in are necessary for successful implementation of AIS prevention efforts. Striving towards transparency and relevancy, WSWCD and partners organized several events to seek ideas and

feedback for the development of the original AIS Management Plan. Along with a brainstorming session held by the Wright County COLA, a public meeting was held in October 2014. Here individuals broke up into groups to discuss several categories of potential action. The Wright County Water Task Force, which represents a wide range of interests mulled through input to establish priorities for fund allocation. This group will continue to meet as WSWCD proceeds with prevention activities. Table 4 has a list of action steps associated with addressing Wright County’s AIS needs.

Table 4. Needs Assessment Action Steps Summary

<b>Action Step</b>	<b>How Action Supports AIS Prevention</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Keep an updated list of Infested waters	Knowing existing infestations helps adjust prioritization of control and prevention efforts for surrounding surface waters	Wright SWCD/ MNDNR	Continuous
Keep a list of public water accesses	Knowing points of access and vulnerabilities to AIS spread helps prioritize actions	Wright SWCD	Continuous
Ensure that local businesses are reducing the risk of AIS spread in their operation; for example, providing lake service providers with educational materials such as brochures	The day-to-day operations of some businesses, whether regulated or not, can pose a risk of AIS spread	MNDNR/ Wright SWCD	Spring Each Year/ Continuous
Collaborate with other counties, watershed groups, etc. to develop a regional approach to AIS prevention	Because AIS and the individuals who could transport them do no stay inside county borders, effective coordination is necessary to prevent AIS spread	Wright and Surrounding Counties/ CROW	Spring Each Year

## **Task 2: Support Community Efforts and Education**

To maximize AIS prevention and management efforts, the County will need to connect with citizens who care deeply about the ecosystem health, quality, aesthetics, and recreational suitability of Minnesota’s over 10,000 lakes and streams. Success will require the input, feedback, and support of these individuals. Substantial and transparent efforts will be made to include the voices of the community and their goals for the allocation of finances and resources.

As such, it will be necessary to pursue an education campaign that includes a variety of mediums and techniques. People respond to signage, publications, hands-on trainings, volunteer opportunities, etc. differently and WSWCD will accommodate a number of learning styles. The

goal is to create a citizen base that has a common understanding of the impacts of invasive species and build human capital in the future of the Minnesota's water resources.

#### *Long-term Education Investments*

Exploring the purchase of equipment, displays, software, hardware, and activities to support long-term education and awareness goals may be appropriate for Wright County. With the recognition that current funding measures may change in the near future, making more expensive investments initially may create a more sustainable program in light of this uncertainty. These investments could include:

- Highly durable AIS prevention displays to be used at events and poster sessions
- Larger AIS-specific fixtures, models, and educational props (i.e. DNR State Fair Exhibit)
- Utilize existing curricula for children events or local programming
- Utilize existing curricula for training the local community for AIS prevention

#### *Educational Activities and Programming*

The incorporation of AIS programming into festivals, fairs, education days, workshops, conferences, trade shows, etc. can be an effective way to reach people on a more direct basis. In addition, it connects citizens to AIS experts, which provides a more effective path for information transfer. Some programming could include:

- Hands-on and interactive activities
- Q&A panel discussion
- Recreational events (i.e. paddle days)
- County Fairs
- Environmental Education Days for 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

Working within the existing school systems may be an effective way to educate children ages 5-18. WSWCD recognizes that teachers and principals must meet state standards for subject matters and has appointed a local teacher to serve as an advisor on the Water Management Task Force. Her input allows the work team to research the most stringent curriculum and package materials and presentations to fit their "how humans interact with the environment" criterion.

#### *Publications*

Along with signage and programming, utilizing publications and providing content is another tool WSWCD can utilize to spread the word. National, state, and local efforts started educating the public about AIS and their spread over a decade ago. In this time, entities including universities, federal initiatives, state agencies, and non-profits have written, developed, and printed hundreds of publications and materials of various mediums. These resources can be accessed and personalized to stretch funding. In addition, in-house services can be used to design print and electronic items that are appropriate for the community.

Along with using signs, brochures, pamphlets, and display units WSWCD needs to build an online presence. Communication styles differ among the varying population groups that visit and recreate on the water; thus, a publicity strategy must encompass multiple mediums. Several of the organizations in the area have webpages, Facebook accounts, online newsletters, etc. that can be accessed for this purpose. WSWCD will foster messaging that is consistent, accurate, and constant to keep up within a fast pace news cycle.

*Incorporate AIS into Citizen Lake Monitoring Program*

The already established Citizen Lake Monitoring Program through RMB labs (supported by local units of government and natural resource entities) is a great program within to establish a volunteer AIS monitoring. Lake associations send an individual out to a site, sampling for water clarity, weather conditions and water samples. Adding an additional parameter to search for any new AIS infestations is relatively easy. This type of sampling prioritizes zebra mussels. Volunteers launch plates that are favorable for zebra mussels to attach and at certain intervals during the sampling season the volunteer will visually check the plates for mussels. If a volunteer suspects a zebra mussel they can remove the plate and ship it to either RMB or MNDNR for confirmation. Although zebra mussels are the focus of this action volunteers will be instructed to lookout for other invasives and can be provided supportive materials.

*Improved and Increased Signage*

The Minnesota DNR and the “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers” campaign has found signage at access sites, roadways, and public spaces to be an effective way to spread information and communication on the prevention of AIS. Although quite a bit has already been done in this medium, it will still be important to do a regional assessment to get a better understanding of potential communication gaps. Creating uniform messaging on both private and public accesses may require the county to assess current signage and any possible with high exposure. WSWCD must be proactive to keep these water bodies protected and venture into areas that may not have been addressed in the past. Currently the DNR public accesses are signed according to the agencies standardization policy; however city, township, and private access sites will need to be contacted.

Table 5. Supporting Community Efforts Action Steps Summary

<b>Education Type</b>	<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Targeted Audience &amp; How Action Supports AIS Prevention</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Active</b>	Investments in long-lasting educational products and materials	<u>All Citizens:</u> Creating long standing educational materials that are durable enough to be moved from place to place	Wright SWCD	Summer 2017

<b>Education Type</b>	<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Targeted Audience &amp; How Action Supports AIS Prevention</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Active</b>	Organize Public Meetings and Events	<u>All Citizens:</u> Recently added funds to the AIS effort as the work of countless citizens working hard to make sure Minnesota's waters are protected. These events will help gain feedback and keep citizens informed.	Wright SWCD/ Partners	Fall Each Year
<b>Active</b>	Utilized existing curricula for schools and information education material for events such as county fairs to support youth education about AIS	<u>Youth and Young Adults:</u> Young people can help prevent the spread of AIS through their own actions and by modeling their knowledge and actions to their families	CROW/ Wright SWCD	Spring/Fall Each Year
<b>Passive</b>	Expand upon signage efforts	<u>All Citizens:</u> Making basic information very visible and accessible is one approach for reducing spread of AIS	Wright SWCD/Task Force	Summer 2017
<b>Passive</b>	Provide up-to-date news content and information through multiple mediums to support citizen groups and individuals.	<u>All Citizens:</u> Ensuring that locals feel confident about AIS prevention and increase efficiency by providing information to partners to share.	Wright SWCD/ Interested Community Groups	Continuous
<b>Volunteer/ Active</b>	Create and/or support a volunteer and ambassador program with MNNDR support	<u>Watercraft Operators and Owners:</u> Using community leaders and groups to help promote a water craft user's sense of personal responsibility to reduce AIS spread through one-on-one education and contact	Wright SWCD/Lake Association	Spring/ Summer Each Year
<b>Volunteer/ Active</b>	Incorporate AIS training into Citizen Lake Monitoring	<u>Existing/Interested Volunteers:</u> This is an cost effective way to add to the early detection effort	WSWCD	Spring Each Year



### **Task 3: Preventing New Introductions**

The 2012 Minnesota State Statutes 84D.105 Inspection of Water-related Equipment allows Wright County and authorized partners to conduct an inspection program on public access sites with MNDNR support and training. The WSWCD currently has a Delegation Agreement for Tribal and Local Government Inspection Programs with the MNDNR and has the ability to hire staff who are trained by MNDNR. Wright SWCD provides DNR-trained level 1 and 2 inspectors that conducts inspections on access sites in accordance with training protocols and the delegation agreement. Level 1 employees are authorized to inspect water-related equipment for AIS, deny access to a water body, and require decontamination if an individual is out of compliance with legal mandates. A level 2 inspector is an individual that is tasked with the same responsibilities as level 1 inspectors with the additional ability to operate a decontaminations station.

Once authorized, these individuals can inspect water-related equipment for aquatic plants, aquatic invasive species, and water. If any of these things are present on the water-related equipment, the approved and trained inspector, who is not a licensed peace officer, may refuse access to the water body and shall refer the violation to a conservation officer or other licensed peace officer.

In 2016, WSWCD along with numerous lake associations partnered to create a lake-specific inspection program. This program proved to be successful and several boats with invasive species attached were turned away. Without the presence of an inspector on high-use recreation lakes, they may be infested with destructive invaders. In the upcoming years, the goal is to make this program more robust and comprehensive. The structure of the program was evaluated by the Wright County Water Management Task Force on assessed needs and realistic goals. The Wright Water Management Task Force decided to prioritize inspector staffing on high use lakes in an effort to inspect the largest number of boats. However, the Task Force also feels that all lake assesses should be covered at some point during the boating season. Therefore every effort will be made to ensure that each assess in the county is visited by an inspector during the boating season.

The WSWCD currently contracts with a local lake service provider, who manages temporary summer employees, follows guidelines listed in the MNDNR delegation agreement, fill-in for scheduling gaps, and serve as a point person for safety and personnel concerns. As the program grows, WSWCD and Task Force will be responsible for negotiating future business terms. The budget for an inspection program will include hourly wages for inspectors and supervisors, identification vests, and tablets to complete surveys.

Although this business is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the program, the WSWCD Water Resource Specialist is the ultimate point-person with the MNDNR and responsible for

meeting the requirements stated in the Legal Delegation Agreement. In 2017 CROW staff will take over for the Water Resource Specialist as the point-of-contact for the contracted business.

#### *Volunteer and Ambassador Program*

The DNR created an AIS Ambassador and Volunteer Program to educate the public about invasive species at the water access and at educational events. These individuals will talk to water equipment users regarding compliance with Minnesota laws and will help people understand the necessary steps to self-inspect their boats, trailers, rafts, etc. Volunteers and ambassadors are trained by the DNR; however, they are not considered watercraft inspectors and are not legally permitted to deny access. Watercraft users are not required to speak with these educators and any interaction is voluntary. WSWCD will support individuals and community organizations by coordinating training, scheduling, providing assistance, and informational materials.

The AIS Ambassador and Volunteer Program is ideal for local lake property owners. Schedules can be more flexible for ambassadors and volunteers but allows for more accesses to be covered so ambassadors and volunteers can provide education opportunities to boaters. Since boaters are not required to interact with ambassadors and volunteers the program prevents a potential conflict of interest that may occur with a local inspector wishing to protect their particular lake. Trainings for the AIS Ambassador and Volunteer Program typically take place in June or later. Training schedules are available on the [MNDNR website](#). Additionally, a training can be schedule in the area if at least 20 individuals will attend. Just as all other MNDNR AIS trainings this training is provided free of charge.

#### *Decontamination*

Although education is a large portion of an inspection program, giving people the tools to return to compliance is important. In 2016 WSWCD purchased an ECOS Trailer Unit DX decontamination unit. Anytime a watercraft was denied access to a lake by an inspector, the operator was referred to the decontamination unit to have all aquatic plants and animals removed at no cost. The unit was operated by level 2 inspectors. The unit was located just off of Hwy 55 in Annandale, MN. During the first summer of operation 408 decontaminations were completed. The majority of these occurred when a boater left a known infested lake or simply wanted to be cautious. Due to survey limitations it is unknown how many decontaminations took place because an inspector refused a boater access to a lake and directed him instead to the decontamination unit.

Table 6. AIS Inspection Program and Development Action Steps Summary

<b>Category of Action</b>	<b>Action Step</b>	<b>How Action Supports AIS Prevention</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Inspection Program</b>	Train WSWCD staff to the level of a level 2 inspectors	Ensures staff are familiar with the trainings and requirements of inspectors	Wright SWCD	Spring Each Year
<b>Inspection Program</b>	Continue and broaden County-wide inspection program	Utilizing one-on-one interactions to inspect potentially infested boats at accesses are a useful way to educate the public	Wright SWCD/Lake Associations	Winter/Spring Each Year
<b>Inspection Program</b>	Continue to contract with local lake service(s) provider to schedule and manage inspection program	Having a clear and established point people can help create consistency and integrity in the inspection program	Wright SWCD	Winter/Spring Each Year
<b>Inspection Program</b>	Increase watercraft inspections within the county by hiring authorized watercraft inspectors	Watercraft inspectors can help spread accurate messages to boaters and help prevent the spread of AIS	Wright SWCD	Spring/Summer Each Year
<b>Inspection Program</b>	Continue to purchase inspection and survey equipment for watercraft inspectors as needs change	This technology is used by the MNDNR to collect data on inspections	Wright SWCD	Spring/Summer Each Year

<b>Category of Action</b>	<b>Action Step</b>	<b>How Action Supports AIS Prevention</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Inspection Program</b>	Expand scheduling efforts to more lakes through adaptive management of watercraft inspectors based on data collection	Creating a comprehensive inspection program requires using resources in the most effective and efficient way possible	Local Lake Service Provider	Summer Each Year
<b>Inspection Program</b>	Utilize roving inspectors to ensure as many accesses as possible in the county have an inspector presence	Roving inspectors help inspectors be in contact with the most boaters	Local Lake Service Provider	Summer Each Year
<b>Decontamination Program</b>	Offer decontamination to all boaters free of charge	Decontamination of watercraft is a key tool in preventing AIS spread	Wright SWCD	Summer Each Year
<b>Decontamination Program</b>	Coordinate with other counties and entities to ensure appropriate distribution of decontamination units	Ensuring users have nearby access and the units are in appropriate locations	Task Force	Spring Each Year
<b>Decontamination Program</b>	Train eligible inspectors to operate portable decontamination unit	A level 2 inspector is required to operate such machinery in conjunction with a delegation agreement	Wright SWCD/ MNDNR	Spring/Summer Each Year

### **Task 3-Managing AIS Source Areas with the Community and Innovation**

Preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species includes minimizing the ability for a plant or animal to hitchhike onto water-related equipment. Managing and controlling existing AIS population reduces source areas and boaters, swimmers, fishers, hunters, etc. contact with them.

*Invasive Treatment Strategies*

Currently, there are 40 lakes in Wright County infested with Eurasian watermilfoil and a number with curly-leaf pondweed. The exact number of lakes infested with curly-leaf pondweed is unknown since its presence does not trigger a lake to be listed as infested by the MNDNR. Considering the proximity of infested lakes to non-infested water bodies, it will be important to remain diligent about controlling invasive population. WSWCD works with local community groups and associations to support annual in-lake treatment on numerous lakes and will continue to pursue these efforts

*Rapid Response Plan*

The lake associations are responsible for coordinating a rapid response effort should a new infestation be confirmed on their lake. Time and energy will be spent developing an Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for new detecting and treating infestations. This plan will assist lake associations by providing important contacts and action steps regarding a new infestation. Additionally, the plan will provide recommendations for surveying lakes for AIS. These surveys will be important so that AIS are detected as soon after introduction as possible and treatment and management can begin.

Table 7. Managing AIS Source Areas Action Steps Summary

<b>Action Step</b>	<b>How Action Supports AIS Prevention</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Provide funding through a grant program to control populations of aquatic invasive vegetation	Eliminating source areas of invasives is an effective way to reduce spread potential	Wright SWCD	Spring Each Year
Cultivate partnerships with organizations interested in AIS prevention to support AIS surveys in water bodies	Leveraging the resources of existing organizations will help to find new AIS infestations more efficiently and to prevent further spread of those AIS	Wright SWCD/Lake Associations/AIS Partners	Continuous
Develop “Rapid Response and Early Detection” plan and identify contacts	Creating a quick communication chain will work to ensure consistency and common knowledge of infestations	Wright Water Task Force	Winter/Spring 2017
Develop a “Rapid Communications Plan” and identify contacts	Creating a quick communication chain will work to ensure consistency of infestations	Wright Water Task Force	Fall 2017

## **Task 5: Building a Reputation-Wright County is Tough on AIS**

People are driven to protect natural resources by a sense of personal responsibility and awareness of their potential impact on the environment. In addition to these motivators, fear can be a source of persuasion towards compliance with AIS prevention laws. In light of the increasing number of infested water bodies, Wright County wants to create tough on AIS reputation to prevent the careless spread of invaders.

### *The Role of Enforcement and the Sheriff's Department*

Minnesota Statute 84D.13 (Enforcement; Penalties) describes the provisions for conservation officers and licensed peace officers to enforce rules and regulations to aid in the prevention of new aquatic invasive species infestations. Select portions of these laws are listed in Appendix E and they detail out information about civil and criminal penalties, prohibitions on transport of aquatic macrophytes and animals, prohibitions and allowed exceptions on the transport of water, Minnesota's drain plug law, and the role of MNDNR trained inspectors.

Wright Sheriff's department will continue to train and educate enforcement staff and work alongside MNDNR conservation officers to build confidence and familiarity with the laws listed in statute. Increasing an enforcement presence may include additional roadside checks, writing tickets, assistance to delegated inspectors, and inspecting watercraft/equipment themselves, and providing educational opportunities to local residents and visiting recreationalists.

This is an area that requires a close working relationship with the Sheriff's Department. There is a lot of room for growth in this section, but any additions in responsibility need to be in-line with the Department's current goals, future goals, and staff availability.

### *Increasing Public Awareness of Violations and Violators*

Many people are unaware of the fines and penalties for violating any of the AIS statutes in law. WSWCD and its Task Force believes that making this information more available and posted in public forums will help deter negative, careless, and/or ignorant behaviors that may lead to the further spread of zebra mussels and other AIS. Information can be posted at non-MNDNR access sites, where additional signage can be posted. In addition, in an effort to make the potential for receiving a citation a real possibility, the Task Force is interested in posting information about violators and the penalties they received.

Table 8. Enforcement, Roving, and Signing Action Steps Summary

Action Step	How Action Supports AIS Prevention	Responsible Party	Timeframe
Ensure that county's peace officers and sheriffs have receive MNDNR training to enforce statue	To ensure consistency with enforcement of existing statue 84D, peace officers need to be informed and feel comfortable	Sheriff's Department/County	Spring Each Year
Utilize county AIS deputies to patrol roadways near infested lakes to issue compliance checks with statue	Compliance checks at and away from boat launches can be effective for communicating the presence of law enforcement	Sheriff's Department	Summer Each Year
Utilize sheriff's department to promote AIS compliance and education	The county sheriff department has a great deal of exposure with the public and is an excellent resource for educating the public on statute	Sheriff's Department	Continuous
Publically post violations and violators	<u>All Citizens:</u> Making basic information very visible and accessible is one approach for reducing spread of AIS	Wright SWCD/ Task Force	Summer Each Year

## Appendix A: Gantt Chart/Timeline

	Action	Responsible Party	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Needs Assessment	Identify AIS infested waters	WSWCD/ MNDNR				
	Keep a List of Public access sites	WSWCD				
	Ensure business are operating with AIS BMPs	WSWCD/ MNDNR				
	Collaborate with other counties, etc.	Wright and Surrounding Counties/CROW				
	Investments in long-lasting educational products	Wright SWCD			2017	
“Supporting Community Efforts and Education”	Organize Public Events	Wright SWCD				
	Develop curricular for schools and youth	CROW. Wright SWCD				
	Expand upon signage efforts	Wright SWCD/Task Force				
	Provide up-to-date news content for distribution	Wright SWCD / Community Groups				
	Create/Support Volunteer and Ambassador Program	Wright SWCD				
	Incorporate AIS into Lake Monitoring	CROW				

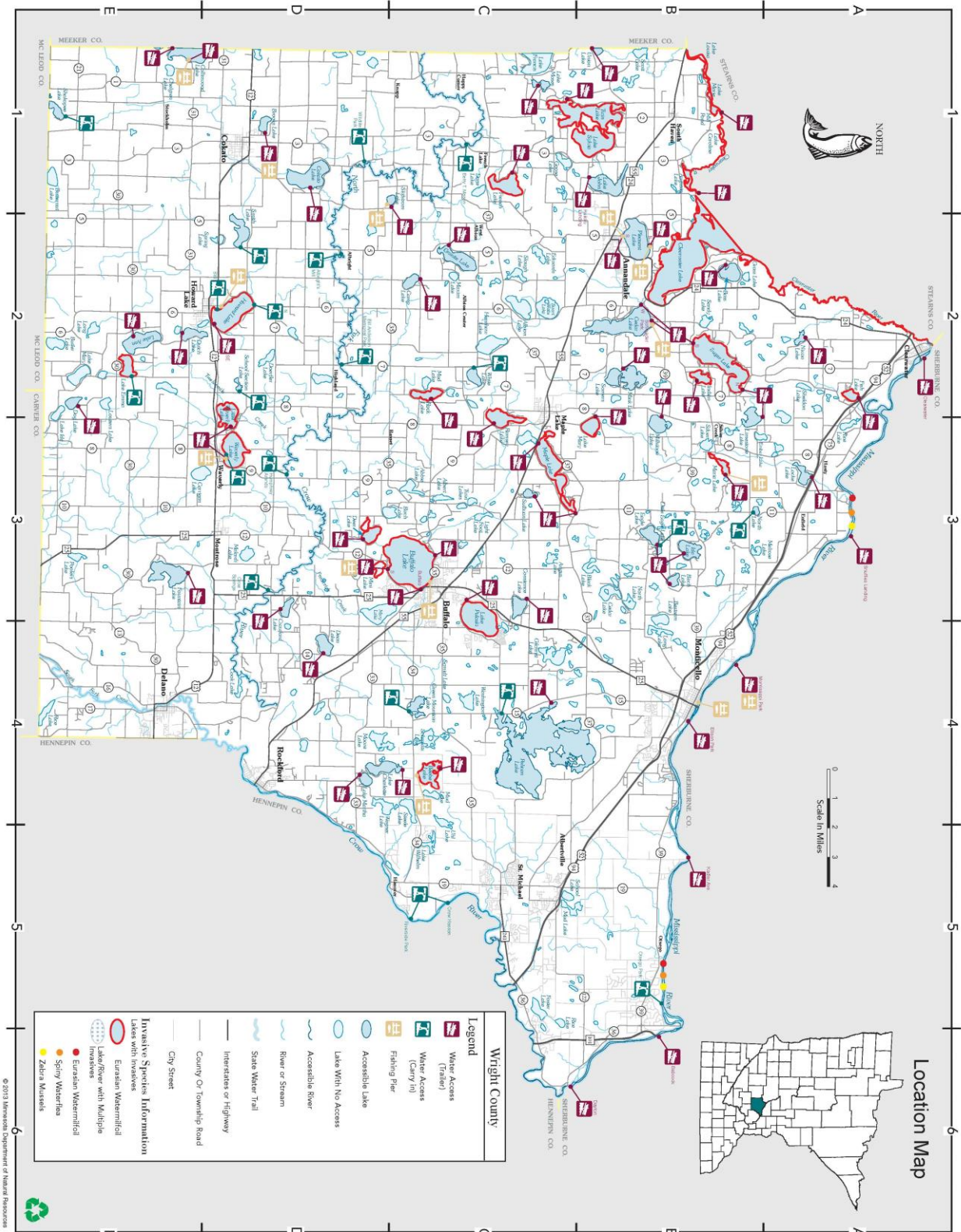


“Preventing New Introductions”	Train WSWCD Staff to Level 2	WSWCD				
	Broaden inspection program	WSWCD/Lake Associations				
	Continue contracting with local LSP	WSWCD				
	Increase watercraft inspection	WSWCD				
	Purchase equipment	WSWCD				
	Adaptive schedule and data evaluation	Local LSP				
	Coordinate decontamination units	WSWCD				
	Offer free decontaminations	WSWCD				
	Train Level 2 Inspectors to operate decontamination unit					
“Managing AIS Source Areas with the Community and Innovation”	Provide Support for in-lake treatments	WSWCD				
	Cultivate partnerships with organizations to broaden management efforts	County/CROW				
	Develop “Rapid Communication” Plan	Task Force	2017			
“Building a Reputation- Wright is Tough on AIS”	Ensure County Peace Officers receive proper MNDNR Training	Sheriff’s Department				
	Utilize sheriff’s department for AIS education	Sheriff’s Department				
	Utilize online and print sources to publically announces violations and violaters	WSWCD/Lake Associations				

## Appendix B: Permitted Lake Service Providers in Wright County

<b>Business Name</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Phone</b>
A-1 Marine Inc	Ryan Huikko Jesse Salmela	Annandale	(320) 274-8227
Anchor Dock & Lift	Jefferson Bishop	Annandale	(320) 274-6500
Dave Rasset Dock 'N Boat Lift Service	Dave Rasset	Annandale	(320) 492-2401
Dingmann Marine and More	John Dingmann	Annandale	(320) 274-8688
Easy Dock Service	Sean Siffert	Buffalo	(612) 986-8692
Irrigation Management LLC	Robert Officer Chris Vasecka	Buffalo	(612) 328-0217
Jeff Bonde	Jeff Bonde	Buffalo	(612) 222-2487
Paul's Docks, Lifts and More	Paul Olson	Buffalo	(651) 701-5734
Skraba Irrigation	Tom Skraba	Buffalo	(612) 701-5734
Clear Waters Outfitting Co.	Dan Meer	Clearwater	(320) 543-3472
How Marine Service, Inc.	Jed Zimmerman	Clearwater	(612) 708-2144
Brad's Boats	Bradley Birkholz	Cokato	(320) 543-3472
Anchor Marine Repair	Dustin Smith	Delano	(763) 972-3540
Bantas Point Estate Care	Steve Wachs	Delano	(763) 396-0778
Foster Bros. Marine	Mark Foster	Delano	(763) 972-3199
JMG Custom Rods	Jeff Granrud	Howard Lake	(763) 486-9235
Adrian Haabala	Adrian Haabala	South Haven	(320) 333-3973
J & J Marine	Travis Buranen Justin Peterson	South Haven	(320) 236-3625

# Appendix C: Wright County Public Water Access



<b>Name and Lake ID</b>	<b>Nearest Town</b>	<b>Access Type</b>	<b>Access Administrator</b>	<b>Known Infestations</b>
<b>Abbie 86013200</b>	Rassat			
<b>Albert 86012700</b>	Rassat			
<b>Albion 86021200</b>	Albion Center			
<b>Angus 86013300</b>	Buffalo			
<b>Ann 86019000</b>	Howard Lake	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Augusta 86028400</b>	Fairhaven			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Bass 86023400</b>	Annandale	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Beaver Dam 86029600</b>	Dassel			
<b>Beebe 86002300</b>	Saint Michael	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Beebe 86002300</b>	Saint Michael	Fishing Pier	County	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Bertram 86007000</b>	Monticello			
<b>Birch 86006600</b>	Monticello	Gravel	MNDNR	
<b>Birch 86011600</b>	Buffalo			
<b>Black 86009500</b>	Buffalo			
<b>Black 86009600</b>	Enfield			
<b>Brooks 86026400</b>	Cokato	Concrete	City	
<b>Brooks 86026400</b>	Cokato	Fishing Pier	City	
<b>Buffalo 86009000</b>	Buffalo	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Buffalo 86009000</b>	Buffalo	Concrete	City	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Buffalo 86009000</b>	Buffalo	Fishing Pier	City	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Buffalo 86009000</b>	Buffalo	Concrete	City	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Butler 86019800</b>	Winsted			

<b>Name and Lake ID</b>	<b>Nearest Town</b>	<b>Access Type</b>	<b>Access Administrator</b>	<b>Known Infestations</b>
<b>Butternut 86025300</b>	Rice Lake (Wright)			
<b>Camp 86022100</b>	Maple Lake	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Caroline 86028100</b>	Fairhaven			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Carrigan 86009700</b>	Waverly			
<b>Cedar 86003400</b>	Delano			
<b>Cedar 86007300</b>	Monticello			
<b>Cedar 86022700</b>	Annandale	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Cedar 86022700</b>	Annandale	Concrete	County	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Cedar 86022700</b>	Annandale	Fishing Pier	County	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Charlotte 86001100</b>	Hanover	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Chelgren 86025600</b>	Stockholm			
<b>Clearwater 86025200</b>	Annandale	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Clearwater (East) 86025201</b>	Other			
<b>Clearwater (West) 86025202</b>	Other			
<b>Cokato 86026300</b>	Cokato	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Collinwood 86029300</b>	Dassel	Fishing Pier	MNDNR	
<b>Collinwood 86029300</b>	Dassel	Concrete	County	
<b>Collinwood 86029300</b>	Dassel	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Constance 86005100</b>	Buffalo	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Cook 86004800</b>	Delano			
<b>Cornell 86024100</b>	Hasty			

Name and Lake ID	Nearest Town	Access Type	Access Administrator	Known Infestations
<b>Crawford 86004600</b>	Montrose	Concrete	County	
<b>Dans 86027400</b>	West Albion			
<b>Dean 86004100</b>	Buffalo	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Deer 86010700</b>	Buffalo	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Doefler 86020600</b>	Highland (Wright)			
<b>Dog 86010100</b>				
<b>Dog 86017800</b>	Oster			
<b>Dutch 86018400</b>	Howard Lake	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Eagle 86014800</b>	Maple Lake	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>East Lake Sylvia</b>	South Haven			Zebra Mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>East Twin 86007100</b>	Monticello			
<b>Edward 86021100</b>	West Albion			
<b>Ember 86017100</b>	Silver Creek			
<b>Emma 86018800</b>	Howard Lake	Carry-In	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Fadden 86010900</b>	Rassat			
<b>First 86006700</b>	Monticello			
<b>Fish 86018300</b>	Hasty	Concrete	Township	Zebra Mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Foster 86000100</b>	Berning Mill			
<b>Fountain 86008600</b>	Montrose	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>French 86027300</b>	Annandale	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Gilchrist 86006400</b>	Buffalo			
<b>Gonz 86001900</b>	Saint Michael			

Name and Lake ID	Nearest Town	Access Type	Access Administrator	Known Infestations
<b>Goose 86010800</b>	Buffalo			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Goose 86027800</b>	French Lake			
<b>Granite 86021700</b>	West Albion	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Grass 86024300</b>	Annandale			
<b>Grass 86025700</b>	Rice Lake (Wright)			
<b>Green Mountain 86006300</b>	Buffalo	Carry-In	MNDNR	
<b>Henry 86021000</b>				
<b>Henshaw 86021300</b>	Albion Center			
<b>Holkers Slough</b>	Monticello			
<b>Howard 86019900</b>	Howard Lake	Fishing Pier	Township	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Howard 86019900</b>	Howard Lake	Carry-In	Township	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Howard 86019900</b>	Howard Lake	Carry-In	City	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Howard 86019900</b>	Howard Lake	Concrete	City	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Hunters 86002600</b>	Albertville			
<b>Ida 86010300</b>	Oster			
<b>Ida 86014600</b>	Silver Creek	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Indian 86022300</b>	Silver Creek	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>John 86028800</b>	Annandale	Concrete	MNDNR	Zebra Mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Lauzers 86010000</b>	Oster			
<b>Light Foot 86012200</b>	Buffalo			
<b>Limestone 86016300</b>	Clearwater	Gravel	MNDNR	
<b>Little Eagle 86014700</b>	Silver Creek	Carry-In	MNDNR	



Name and Lake ID	Nearest Town	Access Type	Access Administrator	Known Infestations
<b>Little Ida 86009200</b>	Silver Creek			
<b>Little Mary 86013900</b>	Silver Creek			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Little Mary 86013902</b>				
<b>Little Mary 86013901</b>				
<b>Little Pulaski</b>				
<b>Little Rock 86018100</b>	Rassat			
<b>Little Waverly</b>	Waverly	Concrete	County	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Locke 86016800</b>	Clearwater	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Long 86006900</b>	Monticello			
<b>Long 86019400</b>	Winsted			
<b>Long 86024600</b>	Silver Creek			
<b>Louisa 86028200</b>	Kimball			
<b>Mains 86017900</b>	Highland (Wright)			
<b>Malardi 86011200</b>	Montrose			
<b>Mallard Pass</b>	Howard Lake			
<b>Maple 86013400</b>	Maple Lake	Concrete	County	Eurasian watermilfoil, Flowering Rush
<b>Maple 86013400</b>	Maple Lake	Concrete	City	Eurasian watermilfoil, Flowering Rush
<b>Maple 86019700</b>				
<b>Maple Unit 86015700</b>	Maple Lake			
<b>Maria 86013700</b>	Silver Creek	Gravel	MNDNR	
<b>Maria 86013700</b>	Silver Creek	Fishing Pier	MNDNR	
<b>Martha 86000900</b>	Hanover	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Mary 86004900</b>	Buffalo			



<b>Name and Lake ID</b>	<b>Nearest Town</b>	<b>Access Type</b>	<b>Access Administrator</b>	<b>Known Infestations</b>
<b>Mary 86015600</b>	Maple Lake	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Mary 86019300</b>	Oster			
<b>Maxim 86021800</b>	Albion Center			
<b>Melrose 86017600</b>	Enfield			
<b>Millstone 86015200</b>	Silver Creek	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Mink 86008800</b>	Buffalo			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Mink 86022900</b>	Maple Lake	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Moore 86002800</b>	Rockford			
<b>Moose 86027100</b>	French Lake			
<b>Mud 86002100</b>	Hanover			
<b>Mud 86003800</b>				
<b>Mud 86004400</b>	Rockford			
<b>Mud 86006800</b>	Monticello			
<b>Mud 86008500</b>				
<b>Mud 86013402</b>	Maple Lake			
<b>Mud 86021900</b>	Rassat			
<b>Mud 86026600</b>	Albright	Asphalt/pier	County	
<b>Nixon 86023800</b>	Hasty	Concrete	Township	
<b>North 86007200</b>	Monticello	Carry-In	County	
<b>North 86017400</b>	Enfield			
<b>North Berthiaume</b>	Buffalo			
<b>North Twin 86012300</b>	Buffalo			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Paradise 86008200</b>	Monticello			

<b>Name and Lake ID</b>	<b>Nearest Town</b>	<b>Access Type</b>	<b>Access Administrator</b>	<b>Known Infestations</b>
<b>Pelican 86003100</b>	Saint Michael	Concrete	USFWS	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Pelican 86003100</b>	Saint Michael	Carry-In	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Pickeral 86028000</b>	French Lake			
<b>Pleasant 86025100</b>	Annandale	Fishing Pier	City	
<b>Pleasant 86025100</b>	Annandale	Concrete	City	
<b>Pleasant 86025100</b>	Annandale	Fishing Pier	County	
<b>Pleasant 86025100</b>	Annandale	Concrete	County	
<b>Pohl 86006100</b>	Buffalo			
<b>Pooles 86010200</b>	Watertown			
<b>Potanski 86002700</b>	Rockford			
<b>Pulaski 86005300</b>	Buffalo	Concrete	City	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Ramsey 86012000</b>	Maple Lake	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Rice 86000200</b>	Dayton			
<b>Rice 86003200</b>	Lyndale			
<b>Rice 86006000</b>				
<b>Rice 86016400</b>	Hasty			
<b>Rock 86018200</b>	Maple Lake	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Round 86019200</b>	Oster			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Ruckles 86009900</b>				
<b>Sandy 86022400</b>	Annandale			
<b>Schmidt 86002900</b>	Buffalo			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>School 86001500</b>	Howard Lake	Carry-In	MNDNR	
<b>School 86002500</b>	Albertville			

Name and Lake ID	Nearest Town	Access Type	Access Administrator	Known Infestations
<b>School Section</b>	Waverly			
<b>Scott 86029700</b>	South Haven			
<b>Shakopee 86025500</b>	Lamson	Carry-In	MNDNR	
<b>Sheldon 86023900</b>	Hasty			
<b>Silver 86014000</b>	Silver Creek			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Slough 86007800</b>	Monticello			
<b>Slough 86009300</b>				
<b>Slough 86014200</b>	Silver Creek			
<b>Slough 86016200</b>				
<b>Slough 86021500</b>	Albion Center			
<b>Smith 86025000</b>	Smith Lake	Carry-In	MNDNR	
<b>Somers 86023000</b>	Maple Lake			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>South Berthiaume</b>	Buffalo			
<b>South Twin 86012600</b>	Buffalo			
<b>Spring 86020000</b>	Smith Lake			
<b>Steele 86002200</b>	Hanover			
<b>Sugar 86023300</b>	Annandale	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Sugar 86023300</b>	Annandale	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Sullivan 86011900</b>	Maple Lake	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Swamp 86001400</b>				
<b>Swan 86029500</b>	Knapp			
<b>Swartout 86020800</b>	Annandale			

Name and Lake ID	Nearest Town	Access Type	Access Administrator	Known Infestations
<b>Tamarack 86008900</b>	Buffalo			
<b>Taylor 86020400</b>	Highland (Wright)			
<b>Twin 86017000</b>	Hasty			
<b>Uhl 86001700</b>	Hanover			
<b>Union 86029800</b>	South Haven	Concrete	MNDNR	
<b>Unnamed 86000400</b>	Otsego			
<b>Unnamed 86000600</b>	Otsego			
<b>Unnamed 86000700</b>	Otsego			
<b>Unnamed 86000800</b>	Otsego			
<b>Unnamed 86002400</b>	Hanover			
<b>Unnamed 86003300</b>				
<b>Unnamed 86003600</b>				
<b>Unnamed 86003900</b>	Buffalo			
<b>Unnamed 86004200</b>				
<b>Unnamed 86004300</b>	Rockford			
<b>Unnamed 86004500</b>				
<b>Unnamed 86006500</b>	Enfield			
<b>Unnamed 86007500</b>	Monticello			
<b>Unnamed 86007700</b>	Monticello			
<b>Unnamed 86009800</b>				
<b>Unnamed 86010500</b>				
<b>Unnamed 86011000</b>	Highland (Wright)			
<b>Unnamed 86012400</b>	Maple Lake			

Name and Lake ID	Nearest Town	Access Type	Access Administrator	Known Infestations
Unnamed 86013800	Silver Creek			
Unnamed 86014100	Silver Creek			
Unnamed 86015800	Maple Lake			
Unnamed 86015900				
Unnamed 86017200	Hasty			
Unnamed 86019100				
Unnamed 86020300	Highland (Wright)			
Unnamed 86022000				
Unnamed 86022200	Annandale			
Unnamed 86023200	Maple Lake			
Unnamed 86024000	Hasty			
Unnamed 86024400	Annandale			
Unnamed 86024700	Silver Creek			
Unnamed 86024800	Silver Creek			
Unnamed 86025900				
Unnamed 86026100	Knapp			
Unnamed 86026200	Knapp			
Unnamed 86029100	South Haven			
Unnamed 86029200	South Haven			
Unnamed 86030200	Otsego			
Unnamed 86031600				
Unnamed 86032000	Annandale			
Unnamed 86032100	Silver Creek			

Name and Lake ID	Nearest Town	Access Type	Access Administrator	Known Infestations
Unnamed 86032400	Maple Lake			
Unnamed 86033000	Otsego			
Unnamed 86033100				
Unnamed 86033200				
Unnamed 86034300	Silver Creek			
Unnamed 86034600				
Unnamed 86035100	Otsego			
Unnamed 86035700				
Unnamed 86037000				
Unnamed 86038000				
Unnamed 86038100				
Unnamed 86039000				
Unnamed 86039100				
Unnamed 86039300				
Unnamed 86039400	Monticello			
Unnamed 86040200				
Unnamed 86040800	Maple Lake			
Unnamed 86041200	Dayton			
Unnamed 86041500				
Unnamed 86041600	Alberville			
Unnamed 86042000				
Unnamed 86044600				
Unnamed 86045600				

Name and Lake ID	Nearest Town	Access Type	Access Administrator	Known Infestations
Unnamed 86046100	Highland (Wright)			
Unnamed 86046700				
Unnamed 86047000				
Unnamed 86047900	French Lake			
Unnamed 86048900				
Unnamed 86049000	Silver Creek			
Unnamed 86049800	Monticello			
Unnamed 86050000				
Unnamed 86050100				
Unnamed 86022001				
Unnamed 86048801				
Unnamed 86048802				
Upper Maples 86013401	Maple Lake			
Varner 86009100	Buffalo			
Wagner 86001000	Hanover			
Washington 86005600	Buffalo			
Waverly 86011400	Waverly	Concrete	City	Eurasian watermilfoil
Waverly 86011400	Waverly	Fishing Pier	City	Eurasian watermilfoil
Waverly 86011400	Waverly	Carry-In	City	Eurasian watermilfoil
West 86016100	Enfield			
West Lake Sylvia 86027900	South Haven	Concrete	MNDNR	Eurasian watermilfoil, Starry Stonewort

<b>Name and Lake ID</b>	<b>Nearest Town</b>	<b>Access Type</b>	<b>Access Administrator</b>	<b>Known Infestations</b>
<b>West Twin 86009400</b>	Silver Creek			
<b>White 86021400</b>	Albion Center	Carry-In	MNDNR	
<b>Wiegand 86024200</b>	Clearwater			Eurasian watermilfoil
<b>Wilhelm 86002000</b>	Hanover			
<b>Willima 86020900</b>	West Albion			
<b>Wolfe 86020700</b>				
<b>Yaeger 86017700</b>	Waverly			





## **Appendix E: Selected Minnesota Laws Related to Water-related Equipment, Watercraft Inspections, and Decontamination (August 1, 2013)**

### **84D.01 DEFINITIONS.**

#### **Subdivision 1. Terms.**

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the meanings given them.

#### **Subd. 2. Aquatic macrophyte.**

"Aquatic macrophyte" means macro algae or a macroscopic nonwoody plant, either a submerged, floating leafed, floating, or emergent plant that naturally grows in water.

#### **Subd. 3a. Decontaminate.**

"Decontaminate" means to wash, drain, dry, or thermally or otherwise treat water-related equipment in order to remove or destroy aquatic invasive species using the "Recommended Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards for Watercraft Interception Programs for Dreissenid Mussels in the Western United States" (September 2009) prepared for the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, or other protocols developed by the commissioner.

#### **Subd. 8b. Inspect.**

"Inspect" means to examine water-related equipment to determine whether aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, or water is present and includes removal, drainage, decontamination, collection and sampling, or treatment to prevent the transportation and spread of aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, and water.

#### **Subd. 8c. Inspector.**

"Inspector" means: (1) an individual trained and authorized by the commissioner to inspect water-related equipment under section [84D.105, subdivision 2](#), paragraph (a); or (2) a conservation officer or a licensed peace officer.

#### **Subd. 8d. Introduce.**

"Introduce" means to place, release, or allow the escape of a nonnative species into a free-living state. Introduce does not include:

(1) the immediate return of a nonnative species to waters of the state from which the nonnative species was removed; or

(2) the seasonal return of nonnative species attached to water-related equipment, such as a dock or boat lift, that has been stored on riparian property and directly returned to the same waters of the state from which the water-related equipment was removed.

#### **Subd. 9. Introduction.**

"Introduction" means the placement, release, or escape of a nonnative species into a free-living state.

#### **Subd. 9a. Invasive species.**

"Invasive species" means a nonnative species that:

- (1) causes or may cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health; or
- (2) threatens or may threaten natural resources or the use of natural resources in the state.

Subd. 10.

[Repealed, [1999 c 92 s 11](#)]

**Subd. 11. Native species.**

"Native species" means an animal or plant species naturally present and reproducing within this state or that naturally expands from its historic range into this state.

**Subd. 12a. Nonnative species.**

"Nonnative species" means a species that is not a native species.

**Subd. 13. Prohibited invasive species.**

"Prohibited invasive species" means a nonnative species that has been designated as a prohibited invasive species in a rule adopted by the commissioner under section [84D.12](#).

**Subd. 15. Regulated invasive species.**

"Regulated invasive species" means a nonnative species that has been designated as a regulated invasive species in a rule adopted by the commissioner under section [84D.12](#).

**Subd. 15a. Service provider.**

"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.

Service provider does not include a person working under the supervision of an individual with a valid service provider permit issued under section [84D.108](#).

**Subd. 16. Transport.**

"Transport" means to cause or attempt to cause a species to be carried or moved into or within the state, and includes accepting or receiving the species for transportation or shipment. Transport does not include:

- (1) the movement of infested water or a nonnative species within a water of the state or to a connected water of the state where the species being transported is already present; or
- (2) the movement of a nonnative species attached to water-related equipment or other water-related structures from a water of the state to the shore of riparian property on that water or the return of water-related equipment or structures from the shore into the same water of the state.

**Subd. 18a. Water-related equipment.**

"Water-related equipment" means a motor vehicle, boat, watercraft, dock, boat lift, raft, vessel, trailer, tool, implement, device, or any other associated equipment or container,

including but not limited to portable bait containers, live wells, ballast tanks except for those vessels permitted under the Pollution Control Agency vessel discharge program, bilge areas, and water-hauling equipment that is capable of containing or transporting aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, or water.

**Subd. 19. Watercraft.**

"Watercraft" means a contrivance used or designed for navigation on water and includes seaplanes.

**84D.02 INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR AQUATIC PLANTS AND WILD ANIMALS.**

**Subdivision 1. Establishment.**

The commissioner shall establish a statewide program to prevent and curb the spread of invasive species of aquatic plants and wild animals. The program must provide for coordination among governmental entities and private organizations to the extent practicable. The commissioner shall seek available federal funding and grants for the program.

**Subd. 2. Purple loosestrife, curly-leaf pondweed, and Eurasian watermilfoil programs.**

- a. The program required in subdivision 1 must include specific programs to curb the spread and manage the growth of purple loosestrife, curly-leaf pondweed, and Eurasian watermilfoil. These programs must include:
  - i. compiling inventories and monitoring the growth of purple loosestrife and Eurasian watermilfoil in the state, for which the commissioner may use volunteers;
  - ii. publication and distribution of informational materials to boaters and lakeshore owners;
  - iii. cooperative research with the University of Minnesota and other public and private research facilities to study the use of nonchemical control methods, including biological control methods; and
  - iv. managing the growth of Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and purple loosestrife in coordination with appropriate local units of government, special purpose districts, and lakeshore associations, to include providing requested technical assistance.
- b. The commissioners of agriculture and transportation shall cooperate with the commissioner to establish, implement, and enforce the purple loosestrife program.

**84D.03 INFESTED WATERS; RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES.**

**Subdivision 1. Infested waters; restricted activities.**

- (1) The commissioner shall list a water of the state as an infested water if the commissioner determines that:
  - a. the water contains a population of an aquatic invasive species that could spread to other waters if use of the water and related activities are not regulated to prevent this; or

- b. the water is highly likely to be infested by an aquatic invasive species because it is connected to a water that contains a population of an aquatic invasive species.
- (2) When determining which invasive species comprise infested waters, the commissioner shall consider:
  - a. the extent of a species distribution within the state;
  - b. the likely means of spread for a species; and
  - c. whether regulations specific to infested waters containing a specific species will effectively reduce that species' spread.
- (3) The presence of common carp and curly-leaf pondweed shall not be the basis for listing a water as infested.
- (4) The commissioner shall maintain a list of infested waters and provide access to a copy of the listed waters. Listings are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 and section [14.386](#) does not apply.

**Subd. 3. Bait harvest from infested waters.**

- (a) Taking wild animals from infested waters for bait or aquatic farm purposes is prohibited, except as provided in paragraph (b), (c), or (d), and section [97C.341](#).
- (b) In waters that are listed as infested waters, except those listed as infested with prohibited invasive species of fish or certifiable diseases of fish, as defined under section [17.4982, subdivision 6](#), taking wild animals may be permitted for:
  - a. commercial taking of wild animals for bait and aquatic farm purposes as provided in a permit issued under section [84D.11](#), subject to rules adopted by the commissioner; and
  - b. bait purposes for noncommercial personal use in waters that contain Eurasian watermilfoil, when the infested waters are listed solely because they contain Eurasian watermilfoil and if the equipment for taking is limited to cylindrical minnow traps not exceeding 16 inches in diameter and 32 inches in length.
- (c) In streams or rivers that are listed as infested waters, except those listed as infested with certifiable diseases of fish, as defined under section [17.4982, subdivision 6](#), the harvest of bullheads, goldeyes, mooneyes, sheepshead (freshwater drum), and suckers for bait by hook and line for noncommercial personal use is allowed as follows:
  - a. fish taken under this paragraph must be used on the same body of water where caught and while still on that water body. Where the river or stream is divided by barriers such as dams, the fish must be caught and used on the same section of the river or stream;
  - b. fish taken under this paragraph may not be transported live from or off the water body;
  - c. fish harvested under this paragraph may only be used in accordance with this section;
  - d. any other use of wild animals used for bait from infested waters is prohibited;
  - e. fish taken under this paragraph must meet all other size restrictions and requirements as established in rules; and
  - f. all species listed under this paragraph shall be included in the person's daily limit as established in rules, if applicable.
- (d) In the Mississippi River downstream of St. Anthony Falls and the St. Croix River downstream of the dam at Taylors Falls, including portions described as Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters in Minnesota Rules, part [6266.0500](#), subpart 1, items A and

B, the harvest of gizzard shad by cast net for noncommercial personal use as bait for angling, as provided in a permit issued under section [84D.11](#), is allowed as follows:

- a. nontarget species must immediately be returned to the water;
  - b. gizzard shad taken under this paragraph must be used on the same body of water where caught and while still on that water body. Where the river is divided by barriers such as dams, the gizzard shad must be caught and used on the same section of the river;
  - c. gizzard shad taken under this paragraph may not be transported off the water body; and
  - d. gizzard shad harvested under this paragraph may only be used in accordance with this section.
- (e) This paragraph expires December 1, 2017.
- (f) Equipment authorized for minnow harvest in a listed infested water by permit issued under paragraph (b) may not be transported to, or used in, any waters other than waters specified in the permit.

**Subd. 4. Commercial fishing and turtle, frog, and crayfish harvesting restrictions in infested and noninfested waters.**

- (a) All nets, traps, buoys, anchors, stakes, and lines used for commercial fishing or turtle, frog, or crayfish harvesting in an infested water that is listed because it contains invasive fish, invertebrates, or certifiable diseases, as defined in section [17.4982](#), may not be used in any other waters. If a commercial licensee operates in an infested water listed because it contains invasive fish, invertebrates, or certifiable diseases, as defined in section [17.4982](#), all nets, traps, buoys, anchors, stakes, and lines used for commercial fishing or turtle, frog, or crayfish harvesting in waters listed as infested with invasive fish, invertebrates, or certifiable diseases, as defined in section [17.4982](#), must be tagged with tags provided by the commissioner, as specified in the commercial licensee's license or permit. This tagging requirement does not apply to commercial fishing equipment used in Lake Superior.
- (b) All nets, traps, buoys, anchors, stakes, and lines used for commercial fishing or turtle, frog, or crayfish harvesting in an infested water that is listed solely because it contains Eurasian watermilfoil must be dried for a minimum of ten days or frozen for a minimum of two days before they are used in any other waters, except as provided in this paragraph. Commercial licensees must notify the department's regional or area fisheries office or a conservation officer before removing nets or equipment from an infested water listed solely because it contains Eurasian watermilfoil and before resetting those nets or equipment in any other waters. Upon notification, the commissioner may authorize a commercial licensee to move nets or equipment to another water without freezing or drying, if that water is listed as infested solely because it contains Eurasian watermilfoil.
- (c) A commercial licensee must remove all aquatic macrophytes from nets and other equipment before placing the equipment into waters of the state.
- (d) The commissioner shall provide a commercial licensee with a current listing of listed infested waters at the time that a license or permit is issued.

**84D.05 PROHIBITED INVASIVE SPECIES.**

**Subdivision 1. Prohibited activities.**

A person may not possess, import, purchase, sell, propagate, transport, or introduce a prohibited invasive species, except:

- (1) under a permit issued by the commissioner under section [84D.11](#);
- (2) in the case of purple loosestrife, as provided by sections [18.75](#) to [18.88](#);
- (3) under a restricted species permit issued under section [17.457](#);
- (4) when being transported to the department, or another destination as the commissioner may direct, in a sealed container for purposes of identifying the species or reporting the presence of the species;
- (5) when being transported for disposal as part of a harvest or control activity when specifically authorized under a permit issued by the commissioner according to section [103G.615](#), when being transported for disposal as specified under a commercial fishing license issued by the commissioner according to section [97A.418](#), [97C.801](#), [97C.811](#), [97C.825](#), [97C.831](#), or [97C.835](#), or when being transported as specified by the commissioner;
- (6) when being removed from watercraft and equipment, or caught while angling, and immediately returned to the water from which they came; or
- (7) as the commissioner may otherwise prescribe by rule.

**Subd. 2. Seizure.**

Under section [97A.221](#), the commissioner may seize or dispose of all specimens of prohibited invasive species unlawfully possessed, imported, purchased, sold, propagated, transported, or introduced in the state.

**84D.08 ESCAPE OF NONNATIVE AND INVASIVE SPECIES.**

(a) A person that allows or causes the introduction of an animal that is a prohibited invasive, regulated invasive, or unlisted nonnative species shall, within 24 hours after learning of the introduction, notify the commissioner, a conservation officer, or another person designated by the commissioner. The person shall make every reasonable attempt to recapture or destroy the introduced animal. If the animal is a prohibited invasive species, the person is liable for the actual costs incurred by the department in capturing or controlling, or attempting to capture or control, the animal and its progeny. If the animal is a regulated invasive species, the person is liable for these costs if the introduction was in violation of the person's permit issued under section [84D.11](#).

(b) A person that complies with this section is not subject to criminal penalties under section [84D.13](#) for the introduction.

**84D.09 AQUATIC MACROPHYTES.**

**Subdivision 1. Transportation prohibited.**

Unless specifically authorized under a license or permit issued by the commissioner, a person may not transport aquatic macrophytes, except as provided in this section.

**Subd. 2. Exceptions.**

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, a person may transport aquatic macrophytes:



- (1) that are duckweeds in the family Lemnaceae;
- (2) for purposes of constructing shooting or observation blinds in amounts sufficient for that purpose, provided that the aquatic macrophytes are emergent and cut above the waterline;
- (3) when legally purchased or traded by or from commercial or hobbyist sources for aquarium, wetland or lakeshore restoration, or ornamental purposes;
- (4) when harvested for personal or commercial use if in a motor vehicle;
- (5) to the department, or another destination as the commissioner may direct, in a sealed container for purposes of identifying a species or reporting the presence of a species;
- (6) that are wild rice harvested under section [84.091](#);
- (7) in the form of fragments of emergent aquatic macrophytes incidentally transported in or on watercraft or decoys used for waterfowl hunting during the waterfowl season;
- (8) when removing water-related equipment from waters of the state for purposes of cleaning off aquatic macrophytes before leaving a water-access site; or
- (9) when being transported from riparian property to a legal disposal site that is at least 100 feet from any surface water, ditch, or seasonally flooded land, provided the aquatic macrophytes are in a covered commercial vehicle specifically designed and used for hauling trash.

#### **84D.10 WATERCRAFT AND WATER-RELATED EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS.**

##### **Subdivision 1. Launching prohibited.**

A person may not place or attempt to place into waters of the state water-related equipment, including aquatic plant harvesting or control equipment that has aquatic macrophytes or prohibited invasive species attached except as provided in this section.

##### **Subd. 2. Exceptions.**

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, a person may place into the waters of the state a watercraft or trailer with aquatic macrophytes:

- (1) that are duckweeds in the family Lemnaceae;
- (2) for purposes of shooting or observation blinds attached in or on watercraft in amounts sufficient for that purpose, if the aquatic macrophytes are emergent and cut above the waterline;
- (3) that are wild rice harvested under section [84.091](#); or
- (4) in the form of fragments of emergent aquatic macrophytes incidentally transported in or on watercraft or decoys used for waterfowl hunting during the waterfowl season.

##### **Subd. 3. Removal and confinement.**

(a) A conservation officer or other licensed peace officer may order:

- (1) the removal of aquatic macrophytes or prohibited invasive species from water-related equipment, including decontamination using hot water or high pressure equipment when available on site, before the water-related equipment is transported or before it is placed into waters of the state;



- (2) confinement of the water-related equipment at a mooring, dock, or other location until the water-related equipment is removed from the water;
- (3) removal of water-related equipment from waters of the state to remove prohibited invasive species if the water has not been listed by the commissioner as being infested with that species;
- (4) a prohibition on placing water-related equipment into waters of the state when the water-related equipment has aquatic macrophytes or prohibited invasive species attached in violation of subdivision 1 or when water has not been drained or the drain plug has not been removed in violation of subdivision 4; and
- (5) decontamination of water-related equipment when available on site.

(b) An order for removal of prohibited invasive species under paragraph (a), clause (1), or decontamination of water-related equipment under paragraph (a), clause (5), may include tagging the water-related equipment and issuing a notice that specifies a time frame for completing the removal or decontamination and reinspection of the water-related equipment.

(c) An inspector who is not a licensed peace officer may issue orders under paragraph (a), clauses (1), (3), (4), and (5).

#### **Subd. 4. Persons transporting water-related equipment.**

(a) When leaving a water of the state, a person must drain water-related equipment holding water and live wells and bilges by removing the drain plug before transporting the water-related equipment. For the purposes of this paragraph, "transporting" includes moving water-related equipment over land between connected or unconnected water bodies, but does not include moving water-related equipment within the immediate area required for loading and preparing the water-related equipment for transport over land.

(b) Drain plugs, bailers, valves, or other devices used to control the draining of water from ballast tanks, bilges, and live wells must be removed or opened while transporting water-related equipment.

(c) Emergency response vehicles and equipment may be transported on a public road with the drain plug or other similar device replaced only after all water has been drained from the equipment upon leaving the water body.

(d) Portable bait containers used by licensed aquatic farms, portable bait containers when fishing through the ice except on waters listed infested for viral hemorrhagic septicemia, and marine sanitary systems are exempt from this subdivision.

(e) A person must not dispose of bait in waters of the state.

(f) A boat lift, dock, swim raft, or associated equipment that has been removed from any water body may not be placed in another water body until a minimum of 21 days have passed.

(g) A person who transports water that is appropriated from noninfested surface water bodies and that is transported by a commercial vehicle, excluding watercraft, or commercial trailer, which vehicle or trailer is specifically designed and used for water hauling, is exempt

from paragraphs (a) and (b), provided that the person does not discharge the transported water to other surface waters or within 100 feet of a surface water body.

(h) A person transporting water from noninfested surface water bodies for firefighting or emergencies that threaten human safety or property is exempt from paragraphs (a) and (b).

#### **84D.105 INSPECTION OF WATER-RELATED EQUIPMENT.**

##### **Subdivision 1. Compliance inspections.**

Compliance with aquatic invasive species inspection requirements is an express condition of operating or transporting water-related equipment. An inspector may prohibit an individual from placing or operating water-related equipment in waters of the state if the individual refuses to allow an inspection of the individual's water-related equipment or refuses to remove and dispose of aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, and water.

##### **Subd. 2. Inspector authority.**

(a) The commissioner shall train and authorize individuals to inspect water-related equipment for aquatic macrophytes, aquatic invasive species, and water. The commissioner may enter into a delegation agreement with a tribal or local government where inspection authority as provided under paragraphs (b), (g), and (h) is delegated to tribal and local governments. The delegation agreements may provide for the assumption of legal, financial, and administrative responsibilities for inspection programs on some or all public waters within their jurisdiction.

(b) Inspectors may visually and tactilely inspect watercraft and water-related equipment to determine whether aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, or water is present. If a person transporting watercraft or water-related equipment refuses to take required corrective actions or fails to comply with an order under section [84D.10](#), subdivision 3, an inspector who is not a licensed peace officer shall refer the violation to a conservation officer or other licensed peace officer.

(c) In addition to paragraph (b), a conservation officer or other licensed peace officer may inspect any watercraft or water-related equipment that is stopped at a water-access site, any other public location in the state, or a private location where the watercraft or water-related equipment is in plain view, if the officer determines there is reason to believe that aquatic invasive species, aquatic macrophytes, or water is present on the watercraft or water-related equipment.

(d) Conservation officers or other licensed peace officers may utilize check stations in locations, or in proximity to locations, where watercraft or other water-related equipment is placed into or removed from waters of the state. Any check stations shall be operated in a manner that minimizes delays to vehicles, equipment, and their occupants.

(e) Conservation officers or other licensed peace officers may order water-related equipment to be removed from a water body if the commissioner determines such action is needed to implement aquatic invasive species control measures.

(f) The commissioner may require mandatory inspections of water-related equipment before a person places or removes water-related equipment into or out of a water body. Inspection stations may be located at or near public water accesses or in locations that allow for servicing individual or multiple water bodies. The commissioner shall ensure that inspection stations:

- (1) have adequate staffing to minimize delays to vehicles and their occupants;
- (2) allow for reasonable travel times between public accesses and inspection stations if inspection is required before placing water-related equipment into a water body;
- (3) are located so as not to create traffic delays or public safety issues;
- (4) have decontamination equipment available to bring water-related equipment into compliance; and
- (5) do not reduce the capacity or hours of operation of public water accesses.

(g) The commissioner may authorize tribal and local governments that enter into a delegation agreement with the commissioner to conduct mandatory inspections of water-related equipment at specified locations within a defined area before a person places or removes water-related equipment into or out of a water body. Tribal and local governments that are authorized to conduct inspections under this paragraph must:

- (1) to the extent called for in the delegation agreement, assume legal, financial, and administrative responsibilities for implementing the mandatory inspections, alone or in agreement with other tribal or local governments;
- (2) employ inspectors that have been trained and authorized by the commissioner;
- (3) conduct inspections and decontamination measures in accordance with guidelines approved by the commissioner;
- (4) have decontamination equipment available at inspection stations or identify alternative decontamination equipment locations within a reasonable distance of the inspection station that can bring water-related equipment into compliance;
- (5) provide for inspection station locations that do not create traffic delays or public safety issues; and
- (6) submit a plan approved by the commissioner according to paragraph (h).

(h) Plans required under paragraph (g) must address:

- (1) no reduction in capacity or hours of operation of public accesses and fees that do not discourage or limit use;
- (2) reasonable travel times between public accesses and inspection stations;
- (3) adequate staffing to minimize wait times and provide adequate hours of operation at inspection stations and public accesses;
- (4) adequate enforcement capacity;
- (5) measures to address inspections of water-related equipment at public water accesses for commercial entities and private riparian landowners; and
- (6) other elements as required by the commissioner to ensure statewide consistency, appropriate inspection and decontamination protocols, and protection of the state's resources, public safety, and access to public waters.

(i) A government unit authorized to conduct inspections under this subdivision must submit an annual report to the commissioner summarizing the results and issues related to implementing the inspection program.

(j) The commissioner may waive the plan requirement in paragraph (g) for inspection programs where authorized inspectors are placed directly at one or more water-access sites, with no requirement for a person to travel from the water access for inspection or decontamination, and no local ordinance or other regulation requiring a mandatory inspection before placing watercraft or water-related equipment into a water body or after watercraft or water-related equipment are removed from a water body.

### **84D.13 ENFORCEMENT; PENALTIES.**

#### **Subdivision 1. Enforcement.**

Unless otherwise provided, this chapter and rules adopted under section [84D.12](#) may be enforced by conservation officers under sections [97A.205](#), [97A.211](#), and [97A.221](#) and by other licensed peace officers.

#### **Subd. 2. Cumulative remedy.**

The authority of conservation officers and other licensed peace officers to issue civil citations is in addition to other remedies available under law, except that the state may not seek penalties under any other provision of law for the incident subject to the citation.

#### **Subd. 3. Criminal penalties.**

(a) A person who violates a provision of sections [84D.03](#) or [84D.06](#) to [84D.11](#), or a rule adopted under section [84D.12](#), is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) A person who possesses, transports, or introduces a prohibited invasive species in violation of section [84D.05](#) is guilty of a misdemeanor. A person who imports, purchases, sells, or propagates a prohibited invasive species in violation of section [84D.05](#) is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

(c) A person who refuses to obey an order of a peace officer or conservation officer to remove prohibited invasive species or aquatic macrophytes from any water-related equipment is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

#### **Subd. 4. Warnings; civil citations.**

After appropriate training, conservation officers, other licensed peace officers, and other department personnel designated by the commissioner may issue warnings or citations to a person who:

- (1) unlawfully transports prohibited invasive species or aquatic macrophytes;
- (2) unlawfully places or attempts to place into waters of the state water-related equipment that has aquatic macrophytes or prohibited invasive species attached;
- (3) intentionally damages, moves, removes, or sinks a buoy marking, as prescribed by rule, Eurasian watermilfoil;

- (4) fails to remove plugs, open valves, and drain water from water-related equipment before leaving waters of the state or when transporting water-related equipment as provided in section [84D.10, subdivision 4](#);
- (5) transports infested water, in violation of rule, off riparian property;
- (6) fails to comply with a decontamination order when a decontamination unit is available on site;
- (7) fails to complete decontamination of water-related equipment or to remove invasive species from water-related equipment by the date specified on a tagging notice and order; or
- (8) fails to complete the aquatic invasive species offender training course required under section [86B.13](#).

**Subd. 5. Civil penalties.**

(a) A civil citation issued under this section must impose the following penalty amounts:

- (1) for transporting aquatic macrophytes in violation of section [84D.09](#), \$100;
- (2) for placing or attempting to place into waters of the state water-related equipment that has aquatic macrophytes attached, \$200;
- (3) for unlawfully possessing or transporting a prohibited invasive species other than an aquatic macrophyte, \$500;
- (4) for placing or attempting to place into waters of the state water-related equipment that has prohibited invasive species attached when the waters are not listed by the commissioner as being infested with that invasive species, \$500;
- (5) for intentionally damaging, moving, removing, or sinking a buoy marking, as prescribed by rule, Eurasian watermilfoil, \$100;
- (6) for failing to have drain plugs or similar devices removed or opened while transporting water-related equipment or for failing to remove plugs, open valves, and drain water from water-related equipment, other than marine sanitary systems, before leaving waters of the state, \$100;
- (7) for transporting infested water off riparian property without a permit as required by rule, \$200;
- (8) for failing to have aquatic invasive species affirmation displayed or available for inspection as provided in sections [86B.401](#) and [97C.301, subdivision 2a](#), \$25;
- (9) for failing to comply with a decontamination order when a decontamination unit is available on site, \$250;
- (10) for failing to complete decontamination of water-related equipment or to remove invasive species from water-related equipment by the date specified on a tagging notice and order, \$250; and
- (11) for failing to complete the aquatic invasive species offender training course required under section [86B.13](#), \$25.

(b) A civil citation that is issued to a person who has one or more prior convictions or final orders for violations of this chapter is subject to twice the penalty amounts listed in paragraph (a).

**Subd. 6. Watercraft license suspension.**

A civil citation may be issued to suspend, for up to a year, the watercraft license of an owner or person in control of a watercraft or trailer who refuses to submit to an inspection under section [84D.105](#) or who refuses to comply with a removal order given under this section.

**Subd. 7. Satisfaction of civil penalties.**

A civil penalty is due and a watercraft license suspension is effective 30 days after issuance of the civil citation. A civil penalty collected under this section must be paid to either: (1) the commissioner if the citation was issued by a conservation officer and must be credited to the invasive species account; or (2) the treasury of the unit of government employing the officer who issued the civil citation.

**Subd. 8. Appeal of civil citations and penalties.**

A civil citation and penalty may be appealed under the procedures in section [116.072, subdivision 6](#), if the person to whom the citation was issued requests a hearing by notifying the commissioner within 15 days after receipt of the citation. If a hearing is not requested within the 15-day period, the citation becomes a final order not subject to further review.

**Subd. 9. Training for offenders.**

A person who is convicted of or subject to a final order for a violation of this chapter involving water-related equipment must successfully complete a training course as provided in section [86B.13](#).

**84D.14 EXEMPTIONS.**

This chapter does not apply to:

- (1) pathogens and terrestrial arthropods regulated under sections [18G.01](#) to [18G.15](#); or
- (2) mammals and birds defined by statute as livestock.