

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention through Public Awareness: Examples from Minnesota DNR and its Partners



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

Target Areas

- Travel corridors - roads
- Destination areas
- Water accesses
- Infested areas
- Local communities

Most Effective Sources of Information – MN 2006/7

1. Signs at water access
2. Watercraft inspectors
3. Television ads
4. Billboards
5. Regulation booklets
6. Radio ads
7. Stickers
8. Newspaper ads
9. Signs along roads
10. Kiosk at Cabela's

Water Access Signage

■ 18" x 24"

Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers



• **HELP
STOP
AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

To avoid spreading aquatic invasive species

BEFORE launching ... BEFORE leaving:

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

It's the Law ... Do Not:

- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on public roads
- Launch a watercraft or place a trailer in the water if it has aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species attached
- Transport water from *infested waters*

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



Water Access Signage

- “Invasive Species Alert” sign with regulations sign below



New Signage and Sign Grants

Large 3' x 4'
signs
with 1' x 4' tops



**THIS IS A
DESIGNATED INFESTED WATER**



**HELP STOP
AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

It's the law: BEFORE launching ... BEFORE leaving you must

- **Remove** aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species.
- **Drain** lake or river water away from the boat ramp.



It is unlawful to:

- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on public roads
- Launch a boat or place a trailer in the water if it has aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited or regulated species attached
- Transport watercraft without draining water, removing the drain plug, and opening water-draining devices
- Dispose of unwanted live bait in the water or on the ground.

Penalties up to \$1,000 Call TIP to report violations: 1-800-652-9093

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Watercraft Inspections



Inspect watercraft leaving infested waters. Contact about 50,000 boaters per year.



Dear Boater:

Minnesota has an important law that applies to anglers, hunters, and others using Minnesota lakes and rivers.

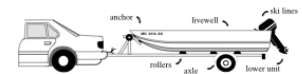
It is unlawful* to transport aquatic plants, animals, or to place a watercraft or trailer with plants attached into the state's waters.

This is a state law because aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian Water Milfoil can be transported from one water to another by watercraft carry aquatic plants. The law will also help prevent small zebra mussels, and other invasive species which can attach to aquatic plants, from being spread by boaters.

Recommended Actions

Before leaving the water access site and transporting boats and equipment:

- ✓ **Inspect** your boat, trailer, and equipment and **remove** visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other animals **before** leaving a water access.
- ✓ **Drain** water from the bait container, livewell, bilge, and transom wells **before** leaving a water access.
- ✓ **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- ✓ **Spray/dry** your boat, trailer, and equipment **before** going to another water body.



For more information contact:

DNR- Invasive Species Program
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4025,
(651- 259-5100
www.snr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html

*Exceptions It is still legal to transport:

- duckweeds (tiny, free-floating plants, 1/8 to 1/4 inch) cattails, bulrushes and other emergent plant stems used for shooting or observation blinds;
- aquatic plants legally purchased from commercial sources for aquarium or ornamental purposes;
- aquatic plants brought to the DNR in a sealed container for the purpose of identifying or reporting a species;
- legally harvested wild rice; and
- aquatic plants as a harvest or control activity.



Mass Media

Tools to raise public awareness include mass media:

- radio
- TV
- billboards
- newspapers



Printed Materials

Tools to raise public awareness include:

- cards
- brochures



Adult zebra mussels grow to 1 1/2"

State laws apply at Zebra Mussel or Spiny Waterflea infested waters



Spiny waterfleas grow to 3/8" long

It's the Law! Before you leave a water access at *infested waters* with zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas you must:

- ✓ **Drain water** from motor, boat bilges, livewells, and other boating equipment holding water. Drain plugs must be **removed** from bilges and livewells. (MN Rule 6216.050, Subp. 3 and MN Statutes 84D.13)
- ✓ **Drain water from bait containers.** (MN Rule 6216.0500, Subp. 3) **If you want to keep your live bait – you must replace water in bait containers with tap or spring water.** Place *unwanted* bait in the trash where it is convenient.
- ✓ **Remove all aquatic plants and zebra mussels** from your boat, trailer, anchors, ropes, and fishing lines. (M.S. 84D.05, 84D.09, & 84D.13)

Before reuse, **remove waterfleas and mud** from boats, anchors, lines, and gear.

For more information:
Contact the Department of Natural Resources
at 1-888-MINNDNR or www.dnr.state.mn.us



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Prevent the transport of invasive species.
Don't go uninvited.

HELP STOP
Aquatic Hitchhikers





STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
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Local Partners

- ✓ Multiple levels of of partners needed – tribal, state, county, lake association, citizens
- ✓ Coarse screen – Fine screen / shield



MnDNR Prevention Grants

Type of grant:

Local watercraft
inspectors for shielding



Local Grant Projects

Type of grant:

Placement of standard ads developed by DNR

- Newspaper
- Radio
- Billboards

Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers



- ✓ **Inspect** your boat, trailer, and equipment and **remove** visible aquatic plants, spiny waterfleas, zebra mussels, and other animals before leaving a water access.
- ✓ **Drain** water from the bait container, livewell, bilge, and transom wells before leaving a water access.
- ✓ **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- ✓ **Spray/dry** your boat, trailer, and equipment before going to another water body.



www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/index.html



www.wapoa.org



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Local Grant Projects

Type of grant:

Local public awareness activities

- training for lake service professionals

BRAINERD LAKES AREA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES SEMINAR FOR LAKE SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

WHEN AND WHERE:

Thurs, April 3 at Ideal Corners Community Center
3 – 5 pm

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Boat and Watercraft Dealers
Boat and Watercraft Rental Companies
Dock Service Installers
Dock Dealers
Fishing Guides
Lakes Service and Repair Professionals
Recreational Outfitters

DNR INVASIVE SPECIES BIOLOGIST,

DAN SWANSON, WILL PRESENT:

- Overview of the Aquatic Invasive Species Problem
- Infested Lakes and Rivers in the Brainerd Area
- What You Can do to Make a Difference
 - o Recommended actions
 - o Reporting new sightings



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

TO REGISTER:

Email: mollyz@minnesotawaters.org or call 218.251.1462 by Tuesday, April 1.
Please include your name, email address and phone number.

DIRECTIONS:

The Community Center is attached to the Ideal Fire Department at the intersection of Butternut Point Rd and Co Rd 16. The entrance is on Butternut Point Rd across from the park pavilion.

SEMINAR SPONSORS:

Gull Chain of Lakes Association	Pelican Lake Conservation Club
MnDNR Watercraft Inspection Program	Pelican Lake Property Owners Association
Minnesota Waters	Whitefish Area Property Owners Association
Pelican Lakes Community Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force	

Local Grant Projects

Type of grant:

Local designed and produced public awareness products



DO YOUR PART



TAKE THIS LAKE MINNETONKA WALLET SIZE MAP AND REMINDER FROM BABE WINKELMAN

THESE RUTHLESS INVADERS ARE HARMING OUR FISHERIES!

Round Goby
Devours game fish eggs



Zebra Mussel
Filters the bottom of food chain



Eurasian Watermilfoil
Destroys native fish habitats



DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES!

BEFORE YOU ENTER OR LEAVE ANY BODY OF WATER:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals from equipment.
- Drain water from equipment.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.



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Clean all recreational equipment.
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Environmental Sentry Protection, LLC

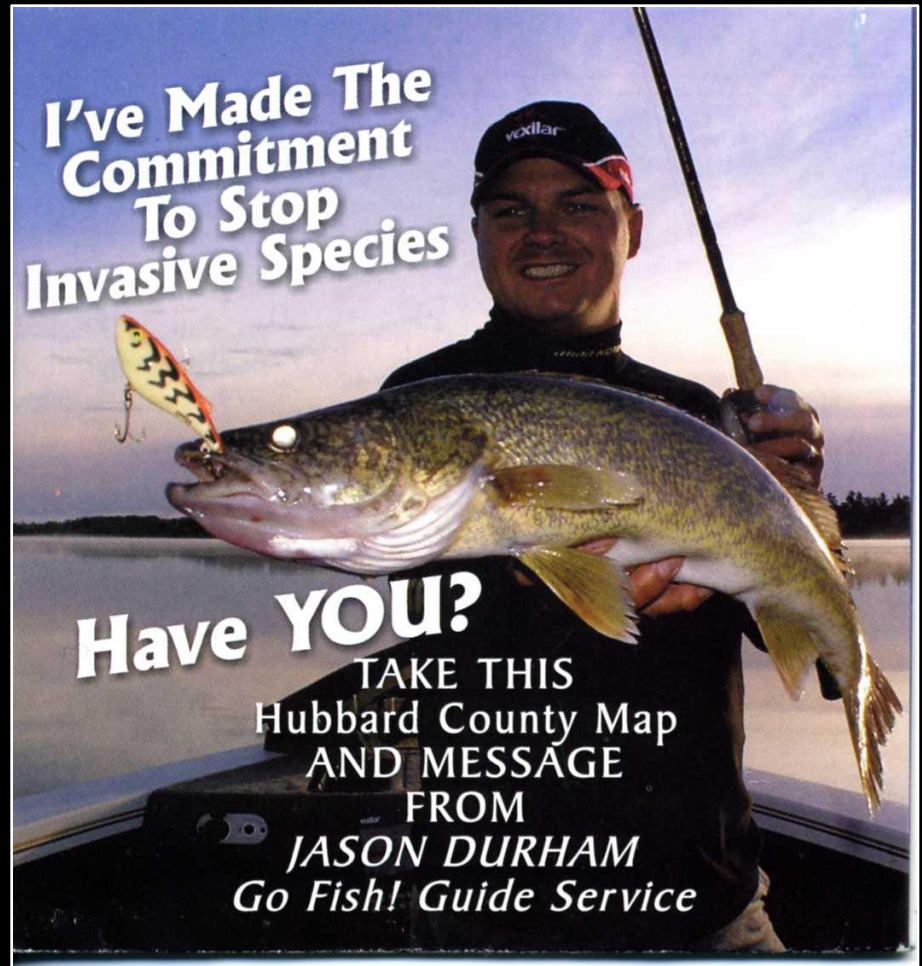
TonkaBlue

Local Grant Projects

Type of grant:

Development of custom item by grantee

- Lake map



Local Grant Projects

Type of grant:

Development of custom ads by grantee

- Radio ads and billboards



Local Grant Projects

Type of grant:

- Development of custom items by grantee
- Floor mat
- Fish ruler



Local Grant Projects

Type of grant: Development of custom items by grantee

- Placemat

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS • STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS • STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS • STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS • STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS • STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

CLEAN LAKES DON'T JUST HAPPEN!

HELP PROTECT LAKE VERMILION FROM THESE AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES



Here's How You Can Help!
Before Launching...Before Leaving...

- ✓ **REMOVE** aquatic plants, fish, animals and mud from boat, motor and trailer.
- ✓ **DRAIN** water from boat, motor, bilge, livewell and bait bucket.
- ✓ **DISPOSE** of unwanted live bait, fish parts and worms in the trash.
- ✓ **RINSE** boat and equipment with high pressure hot water on your way home or at home **OR**
- ✓ **DRY** everything for at least 5 days.

• indicates public boat access

Presented by the Sportsmen's Club of Lake Vermilion - www.sportsmensclublakevermilion.org
and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - www.dnr.state.mn.us

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Local Grant Projects

- “Burma Shave” style road signs – Radio contest by the 50 Lakes Property Owners Association

Pull Your Plug...

Drain Your Boat

Inspect It...

Dry It...

Then Re-Float!



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Local Grant Projects

- Road signs



Local Awareness

Examples of Efforts:

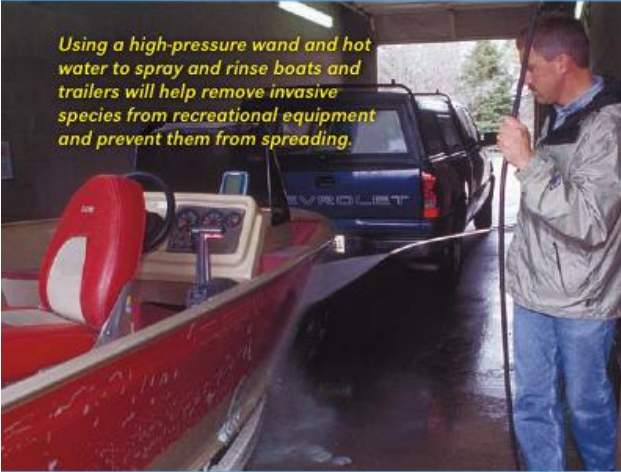
- Access awareness events
- Boat washing program



Brainerd Lakes Area

BOAT WASHING PROGRAM

Using a high-pressure wand and hot water to spray and rinse boats and trailers will help remove invasive species from recreational equipment and prevent them from spreading.



Funding Sources for DNR Public Awareness

- *Watercraft Surcharge
(Staff)*
- *General Fund - ~\$200,000
(Prevention grants, Public awareness)*
- *Federal Grants for plans \$325,000
(Prevention grants, Public awareness)*

Questions

