



Prevent the Spread: Aquatic Invasive Species Training for Lake Service Providers

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- Courtney Kowalczak, Minnesota Waters





You Can Help Stop AIS Transfer !

Establish State Required Education and Certification for Water Service Professionals

- **Allows Specialized Effective Training**
- **Establishes Professional Identification**
- **Creates Informational Updates Reporting and Procedures**



Formation of an AIS Task Force

Creating BLAISTF

○ Program Goals

- Develop controls for nearby Zebra mussel infested lake
- Partner with DNR
- Develop List of Professionals
- Sponsor Sensitivity Seminars
- Determine ways to further educate public
 - Interface with other Lake Assn
 - Newspaper Articles
 - Community Events



Lake Professional Seminars

- **DNR Created and Gives the Presentation**
 - Prevent AIS Transfer in Area Lakes
 - Recognize Time Constraints
 - Work Multiple Lakes
- **Identify and Invite Lake Professionals**
 - Initial Mailing list of 90 = Assumed only partial list
 - Present Mailing List = 145
- **Create Public Awareness of Seminar and Benefits**
 - Newspapers and Radio
 - Support of BLAISTF Lake Associations
- **Publish Names of Seminar attendees**
 - BLAISTF Association Web Sites and Mailings

BRAINERD LAKES AREA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES SEMINARS FOR LAKE SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

WHEN AND WHERE:

Tuesday, August 18 from 3:00pm - 4:30pm OR
Monday, August 24 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm
at the **Grace Methodist Church Fellowship Hall in Pequot Lakes**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Boat and Watercraft Dealers or Rental Companies
Dock Service Installers and Dealers
Boat and Watercraft Storage
Fishing Guides and Recreational Outfitters
Lake Vegetation Service and Shoreline Restoration Professionals

Professionals who attended last year's Seminars should attend this year –
to learn new up to date information on the Zebra mussel population increase, strategies to remove them and prevent their spread.

DNR INVASIVE SPECIES BIOLOGIST,

DAN SWANSON, WILL PRESENT:

- An overview of the aquatic invasive species problem in the Brainerd Lakes Area
- The growing number of infested lakes and rivers in the Brainerd Area
- ***What You Can do to Make a Difference***
 - o Regulations that apply to moving boats, docks, lifts and equipment
 - o Recommended procedures for cleaning the dock/lift install tools, watercraft and waders; cleaning boat and pontoon trailers; and moving lifts or docks to a different lake
 - o **Reporting sightings at season close, monitoring the lakes and preventing the spread**

TO REGISTER:

Please fill out the form on the back of this sheet and bring it to the Seminar.

DIRECTIONS:

Grace Methodist Church is located just south of Pequot Lakes on the east side of Highway 371.
The Fellowship Hall has a direct entrance on the south side of the building.

SEMINAR SPONSORS:

Brainerd Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force (BLAISTF)
Crow Wing Lakes and Rivers Alliance (LARA)
Gull Chain of Lakes Assn
Kimball Lake Property Owners Assn
MnDNR Watercraft Inspection Program

Minnesota Waters
Ossawinnamakee Prop Owners Assn
Pelican Lks Area AIS Task Force
Pelican Lake Property Owners Assn
Whitefish Area Property Owners Assn

Sponsors will publish and promote the list of Seminar attendees in lake association newsletters.

Crow Wing County has more lakes infested with the Zebra mussel than any other county in Minnesota.

These Zebra mussel populations have grown rapidly over the past year and the threat of spreading Zebra mussels to additional Brainerd area lakes is now extremely high. We need the support of all lake professionals to help in the fight against the spread of aquatic invasive species.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

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

BRAINERD LAKES AREA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES SEMINAR FOR LAKE SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

Tues, July 8 at the Grace Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

REGISTRATION FORM

*PLEASE FILL OUT THE REGISTRATION FORM AND BRING IT TO THE SEMINAR. ADDITIONAL
FORMS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR.*

BUSINESS NAME: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY & ZIP _____

PHONE & EMAIL: _____

WHAT TYPE OF WORK DOES YOUR BUSINESS PROVIDE THE LAKES AREA? (circle all that apply)

BOAT AND WATERCRAFT DEALERS

BOAT AND WATERCRAFT RENTAL COMPANIES

DOCK SERVICE INSTALLERS

DOCK DEALERS

FISHING GUIDES

RECREATIONAL OUTFITTERS

LAKE VEGETATION SERVICE AND SHORELINE RESTORATION PROFESSIONALS

OTHER? _____

WHAT LAKES DO YOU WORK IN? (circle all that apply)

GULL CHAIN

PELICAN LAKES

KIMBALL LAKE

WHITEFISH CHAIN

LAKE OSSAWINNAMAKEE

OTHER LAKES? _____

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Predicted: Law Requiring Registration and Training

Earlier this week the Minnesota Legislature passed a new law requiring individuals that install or remove docks or boat lifts for a fee on more than one lake

- At least one hour of training on the identification and methods to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species
- Conducted within 50 miles of the individual's place of business
- Required to have a valid certificate of training in possession
- The AIS Seminar on June 8th will provide all participants with a valid certificate of training



Service Professional Profile

- **3 Seminars in 2008 = 13 Business/25 Professionals**
 - 7 Dock, Lift and Boat Dealers/Installers and Boat Storage
- **4 Seminars in 2009 = 7 Business/12 Professionals**
 - 6 Dock, Lift and Boat Dealers/Installers and Boat Storage
- **2 Seminars in *2010 = 15 Business/21 Professionals**
 - 9 Dock, Lift and Boat Dealers/Installers and Boat Storage
- **9 Seminars Reached only 32 of *145 invited Businesses**
 - Most work in multiple lakes including a Zebra Mussel infested lake
 - 12 of 13 + (*2 of 9) Dock, Lift, and Boat Dealers/Installers and Storage worked in Zebra Mussel Infested Lake
 - Most do not do the recommend washing or quarantine of equipment
 - Few perform management procedures to reduce risk of

BLASTIF Seminar For Lake Service Professionals

Participant Evaluation Form

- **Overall, how would you rate the Seminar? 12345**
Average 4=10
Excellent=15
- **How well did the Seminar identify infested lakes in our area?**
Average=1 4=6 Excellent=17
- **How well did the Seminar provide methods to identify the aquatic invasive species in our region?**
Average=3 4=7 Excellent=16
- **How well did the Seminar provide methods to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species?**
Average 4=9
Excellent=17
- **Did you learn any new methods to reduce the spread of aquatic invasives?**
 - What new methods do you plan to begin using?
 - Which methods do you most commonly use?
- **In what areas would you like to have received more**



Learned AIS Protection Methods

- Use of bleach to kill Zebra mussels
- Stiff brush to clean trailer bunks
- Allow dock and lifts to sit over the winter before transfer to another lake
- Schedule infested lakes last
- Inspect and clean in water tools
 - Chains, J-Hooks, Portable Wheels, Waders and Wet Suits



AIS Protection Procedures Shared in Seminar

- Power wash all rental returns
- Set-aside separate trailer
 - Pickup/Delivery in Zebra mussel infested lakes
- Drill extra drain holes in trailer frame
- Restrict usage/work in infested lakes



Desired Additional AIS Information

- Share personal experiences in seminar
- Enforcement actions by law enforcement
- More efficient and effective cleaning methods
- More effective way to report concerns



Concern with Professionals Not Attending AIS Seminars

- Professional transferred used lift from Zebra mussel lake to Pelican Lake
- Lift traded to dealer with Zebra mussel from known infested waters
- Pontoon boat traded to dealer with Zebra mussels from known infested waters
- Request to rent trailer to move pontoon out of Zebra mussel infested lake to see “Elvis”
- Professional refuses to attend seminar after multiple requests to attend
- Undetected Zebra mussel infestation

Establish State Required Education and Certification for Water Service Professionals

State Program should develop/document:

- More Efficient/Effective Protective Actions
 - Direct immediate AIS communications
 - Knowledgeable direct AIS detection
- Develop specific Preventive Cleaning Actions
 - Versus 80% Effective- Performed 90% of Times
 - 100% Effective- Not Performed = No Protection
- Identify transfer risks on Tools-Cables, Waders, Lift Wheels
- Present Management techniques to reduce risks
 - Zebra mussel exclusive equipment
 - Concentrate work in infested lakes, and work there last



Help Stop AIS Spread

Support State-Required Education and Certification

- Allows Specialized Effective Training
 - Computer based AIS Sensitivity Training
- Establish Professional's Identification
 - Computer file with contact email and telephone
- Create Informational Updates Reporting and Procedures
 - Report new discovered infestation
 - Advise information on new AIS species
 - Advise new AIS prevention methods/procedures



Minnesota Waters



Provides the **training, connections** and **support** to empower citizens to take action to save our lakes and rivers.



Co-hosted AIS Prevention Stakeholder Meetings with DNR January 2010

- New or Improved Regulations
 - Drain all water, including pulling the drain plug, open water draining devices, and draining bilges and live wells.
- Enforcement
 - Increased enforcement activities statewide
 - **Require AIS certification program for LSP SF2900- vetoed.**
- Watercraft Inspections
 - Increased DNR watercraft inspections by 15 inspectors and 7000 hrs
- Education
 - Lake Service Provider Workshops
 - Citizen AIS Monitoring
- Local support and partnerships
 - AIS Prevention Workgroup

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/publications>



Training Programs

○ **Lake Service Provider Workshops**

- Expand BLAISTF program statewide
- Identification
- Local infestations
- Cleaning and removal procedures
- Reporting AIS
- Conduit of information to customers
- Goal: 12 workshops for 2011

To Be Truly Effective Licensing of Professionals is Necessary



Training Programs

- **Citizen AIS Monitoring Program**
 - Hands-on identification of AIS
 - How to target areas of their lake for inspection
 - Record and report findings
 - Outreach to community about AIS
 - Provide collected data for DNR verification
 - 8 workshops for 2011



Minnesota Waters Next Steps

- MW September Legislator Forum focused on AIS issues
- Early 2011 AIS Management Forum
- Training Workshops
 - Lake Service Provider
 - Citizen AIS Monitoring
- Minnesota Waters Statewide Conference April 28-29th 2011
 - AIS Track
 - Stakeholder meeting



Contact Us

Minnesota Waters

www.minnesotawaters.org

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