

Hubbard County

2023 AIS Program



2023 in Review

Overview:

- Community Outreach
- Inspection Summary
- Decontamination Summary
- AIS Infested Waters Updates
- 2024 Planning & Funding Information



Community Outreach

- Watercraft Inspection Program.
 - 42 Inspectors, including 5 Level 2 inspectors & 1 Lead inspector
 - Engaged watercraft users at 34 accesses.
- AIS prevention advertisements on KDKK, KXKK, KPRM.
 - Several new decontamination-specific adds.
- AIS billboard – State Hwy 34 & County 4 intersection, East of Park Rapids (COLA partnership).
- Aqua Weed Sticks distributed to accesses county-wide
 - Promote hands-on public engagement with AIS prevention
- AIS prevention newspaper articles throughout the summer.
- Starry Trek – Community volunteers sampling for SSW
 - 22 public accesses sampled at 20 different lakes
 - 10 volunteers
 - No new AIS found

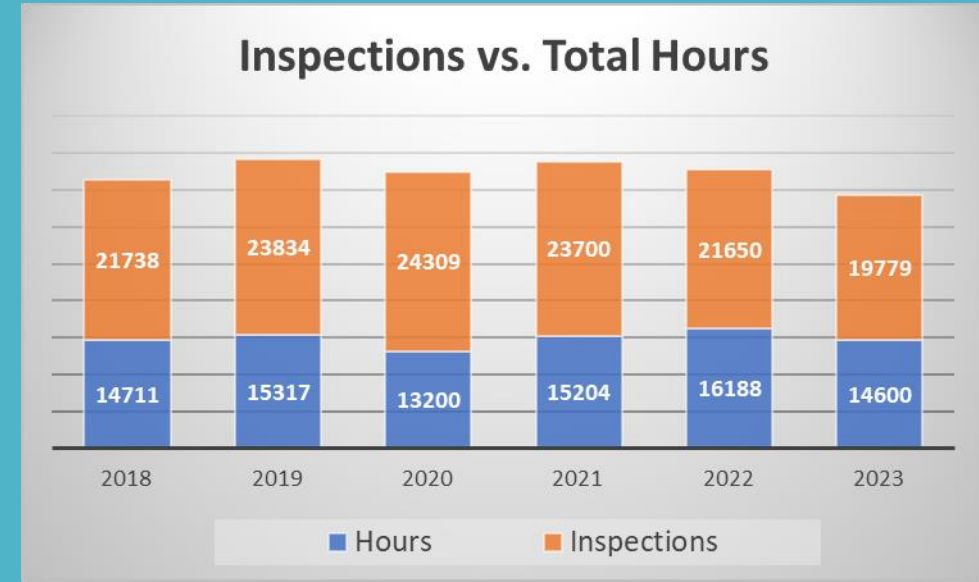


Inspection Summary

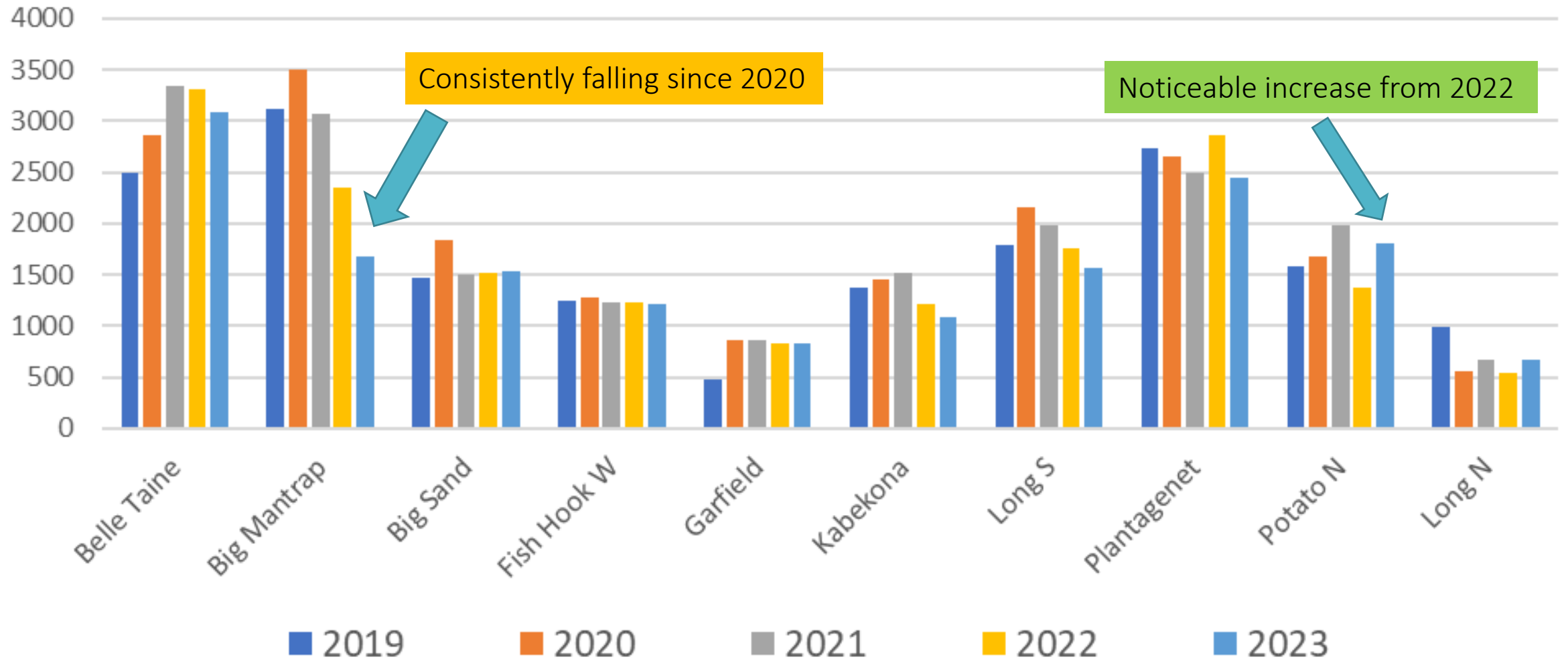
- Inspection season ran from May 13th – Sept. 30th
 - Big Mantrap & Big Sand inspections extended through October
- 14,468 hours worked (as of October 17th)
 - 14,600 total scheduled.
- So far: 19,779 inspection surveys completed
 - Inspections are still ongoing
- 98.65% compliance with drain plug law
- 97.81% compliance with all other AIS laws
- 1.37 inspections per hour (County-wide average)

Boat traffic comparable to 2022

- Many launches were subjected to low water levels. Impacted boat access.
- Gas prices remain high – similar to 2022 prices.
- Inspections per hour up *slightly* from 2022
- One program goal is to get inspections/hour to pre-covid levels
 - *(requires boat activity of course)*
- More inspections/hour = More “bang for our bucks”.

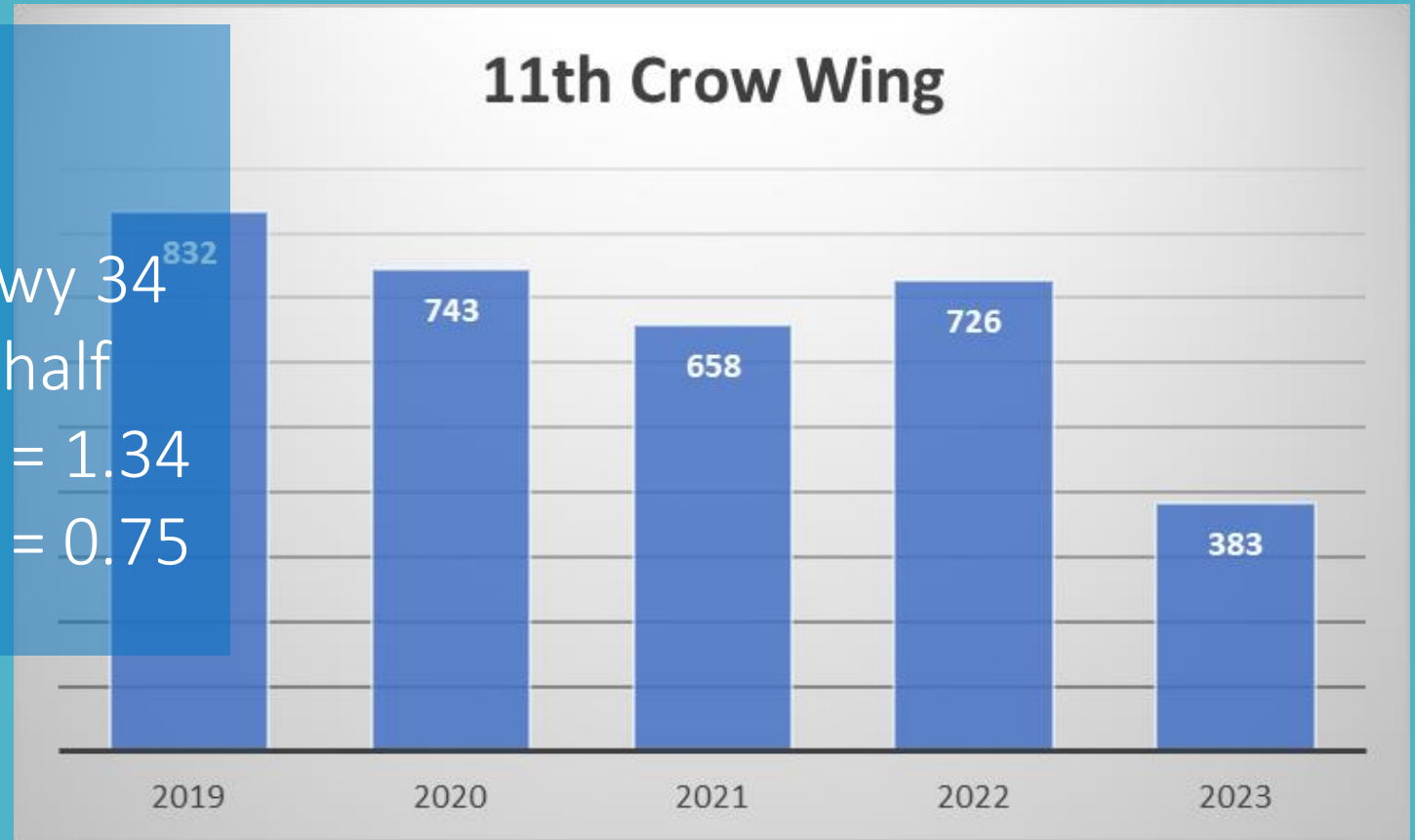


Top 10 Lake Trends



11th Crow Wing – Out of the “Top 10”

- Road construction along Hwy 34
- Inspection numbers cut in half
- 2022 Inspections per hour = 1.34
- 2023 Inspections per hour = 0.75



Something to think about for next year... Hwy 87?

Biggest gains in Inspections/Hour

Largest gains in Inspections/Hour																								
	Total Inspections	Total Entering	% Entering	Total Exiting	% Exiting	Total Courtesy	% Courtesy	Drain Plug In On Arrival	% With Drain plug in	Plants, Animals, Water, or Mud Found	% With Plants, Animals, Water or Mud Found	Entering From Infested Waters	% Entering From Infested Waters	Entering From Zebra Mussel Infested Waters	% Entering From Zebra Mussel Infested Waters	Entering From Stonewort Infested Waters	% Entering From Stonewort Infested Waters	Entering From Starry State	% Entering From Out-of-State	Hours Scheduled	Hours Worked	Inspections per Hour		
1st CW	103	62	60.19%	41	39.81%	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	17.74%	5	8.06%	1	1.61%	7	11.29%	128	136	0.76	0.06	
3rd CW	41	26	63.41%	15	36.59%	-	-	1	3.85%	-	-	18	69.23%	2	7.69%	-	-	2	7.69%	72	72	0.57	0.01	
6th CW	196	127	64.80%	69	35.20%	-	-	-	-	3	2.36%	18	14.17%	10	7.87%	3	2.36%	41	32.28%	160	144	1.36	0.34	
8th CW	208	116	55.77%	91	43.75%	1	0.48%	3	2.59%	2	1.72%	25	21.55%	15	12.93%	7	6.03%	20	17.24%	240	222	0.94	0.17	
10th CW	44	25	56.82%	19	43.18%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	12.00%	72	72	0.61	-0.03	
11th CW	383	227	59.27%	156	40.73%	-	-	2	0.88%	-	-	26	11.45%	23	10.13%	10	4.41%	15	6.61%	504	509	0.75	-0.59	
Belle Taine	3079	1749	56.80%	1330	43.20%	-	-	23	1.32%	13	0.74%	248	14.18%	173	9.89%	62	3.54%	280	16.01%	1292	1299	2.37	0.51	
Benedict	214	126	58.88%	88	41.12%	-	-	4	3.17%	28	22.22%	88	69.84%	87	69.05%	23	18.25%	18	14.29%	240	232	0.92	-0.23	
Big Mantrap	1680	998	59.40%	678	40.36%	4	0.24%	6	0.60%	33	3.31%	533	53.41%	120	12.02%	49	4.91%	185	18.54%	1376	1264	1.33	-0.21	
Big Sand	1541	950	61.65%	591	38.35%	-	-	6	0.63%	14	1.47%	151	15.89%	78	8.21%	35	3.68%	133	14.00%	1104	1088	1.42	0.07	
Big Stony	121	68	56.20%	53	43.80%	-	-	1	1.47%	-	-	10	14.71%	4	5.88%	2	2.94%	2	2.94%	104	112	1.08	0.22	
Blue	102	58	56.86%	44	43.14%	-	-	1	1.72%	-	-	10	17.24%	7	12.07%	3	5.17%	6	10.34%	144	144	0.71	-0.18	
Boulder	147	75	51.02%	72	48.98%	-	-	-	-	1	1.33%	32	42.67%	3	4.00%	2	2.67%	11	14.67%	120	120	1.23	0.59	
Decon Station	144	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	144	100.00%	-	-	-	-	39	27.08%	31	71.53%	8	5.56%	22	15.28%	-	-	-	-	
Duck	195	102	52.31%	93	47.69%	-	-	-	-	1	0.98%	55	53.92%	5	4.90%	-	-	4	3.92%	240	246	0.79	-0.17	
Eagle	256	148	57.81%	108	42.19%	-	-	3	2.03%	-	-	14	9.46%	7	4.73%	4	2.70%	32	21.62%	288	303	0.84	-0.20	
East Crooked	122	85	69.67%	37	30.33%	-	-	-	-	4	4.71%	8	9.41%	5	5.88%	1	1.18%	6	7.06%	240	239	0.51	-0.04	
Emma	45	28	62.22%	17	37.78%	-	-	2	7.14%	-	-	3	10.71%	1	3.57%	2	7.14%	1	3.57%	56	64	0.70	0.46	
Fish Hook West	1218	701	57.55%	517	42.45%	-	-	8	1.14%	9	1.28%	102	14.55%	62	8.84%	38	5.42%	90	12.84%	704	689	1.77	0.24	
Fish Hook River	157	87	55.41%	70	44.59%	-	-	3	3.45%	-	-	10	11.49%	9	10.34%	4	4.60%	8	9.20%	200	200	0.79	0.06	
Garfield	836	454	54.31%	382	45.69%	-	-	28	6.17%	29	6.39%	336	74.01%	323	71.15%	51	11.23%	30	6.61%	504	520	1.61	0.10	
George	206	124	60.19%	81	39.32%	1	0.49%	2	1.61%	2	1.61%	76	61.29%	12	9.68%	6	4.84%	18	14.52%	160	160	1.29	0.36	
Island	114	74	64.91%	40	35.09%	-	-	2	2.70%	-	-	10	13.51%	5	6.76%	1	1.35%	11	14.86%	168	158	0.72	-0.16	
Kabekona	1092	627	57.42%	465	42.58%	-	-	13	2.07%	13	2.07%	174	27.75%	150	23.92%	81	12.92%	78	12.44%	1056	1046	1.04	-0.10	
Little Sand	364	212	58.24%	152	41.76%	-	-	3	1.42%	7	3.30%	28	13.21%	14	6.60%	5	2.36%	49	23.11%	480	480	0.76	0.02	
Long North	663	384	57.92%	279	42.08%	-	-	6	1.56%	6	1.56%	169	44.01%	140	36.46%	114	29.69%	89	23.18%	704	663	1.00	0.16	
Long South	1560	929	59.55%	631	40.45%	-	-	17	1.83%	11	1.18%	360	38.75%	306	32.94%	271	29.17%	148	15.93%	984	990	1.58	-0.02	
Palmer	10	5	50.00%	5	50.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	20.00%	-	-	-	-	-	-	56	56	0.18	-0.05	
Plantagenet	2452	1211	49.39%	1241	50.61%	-	-	8	0.66%	54	4.46%	795	65.65%	725	59.87%	241	19.90%	125	10.32%	912	923	2.66	-0.13	
Portage	62	33	53.23%	29	46.77%	-	-	1	3.03%	-	-	3	9.09%	2	6.06%	2	6.06%	3	9.09%	120	120	0.52	-0.49	
Potato West	194	101	52.06%	93	47.94%	1	0.52%	3	2.97%	1	0.99%	12	11.88%	9	8.91%	0	0.00%	21	20.79%	512	520	0.37	-0.17	
Potato North	1812	1039	57.34%	773	42.66%	2	0.11%	4	0.38%	14	1.35%	191	18.38%	129	12.42%	56	5.39%	155	14.92%	968	982	1.85	0.46	
Shallow	113	61	53.98%	52	46.02%	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	13.11%	3	4.92%	1	1.64%	8	13.11%	196	198	0.57	0.08	
Spider	211	120	56.87%	91	43.13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	12.50%	5	4.17%	5	4.17%	10	8.33%	280	285	0.74	-0.13	
Upper Bottle	94	52	55.32%	42	44.68%	-	-	1	1.92%	-	-	20	38.46%	3	5.77%	3	5.77%	5	9.62%	216	212	0.44	-0.08	
Totals	19779	11184	56.54%	8445	42.70%	153	0.77%	151	1.35%	245	2.19%	3599	32.18%	2473	22.11%	1091	9.76%	1636	14.63%	14600	14468	1.37	0.03	
# Of Decontaminations	144	1.29%						Entering from DNR Designated Infested Waters					>20.00%	>20.00%						>20.00%				
												Does not include curly leaf pondweed, and invasives that are not included on the MN DNR Infested Waters List					>10.00%	>10.00%						>10.00%

A Few Close Calls...

- Multiple instances of denied launches
 - May 27th, Big Mantrap: Fishing boat
 - *Weeds that couldn't be removed by hand*
 - July 1st, Lake Belle Taine: Pontoon
 - *Zebra Mussels attached to the pontoons*
 - July 8th, Garfield Lake: Pontoon
 - *Zebra Mussels attached to the pontoons*
 - July 29th, Plantagenet: Fishing boat
 - *Zebra Mussels found attached to vegetation on trailer*
 - September 7th, Long Lake: Pontoon
 - *Zebra Mussels found on sea-legs*



Image courtesy MN DNR



Decontamination Summary

- Staffed May 13th through September 25th
 - On-call 7 days a week: 10 AM – 6 PM
- Renewed emphasis with updated decontamination-specific radio ads
- Early Season phone fiasco
 - Issues with Verizon/Track Phone re-activation.
 - Needed to change number
- 144 decontaminations performed despite early issues.
 - Up from 83 last year!

FREE Watercraft Decontamination



May-September (exact start/end dates vary)
Available 7 days a week by appointment
Open 10:00 am — 6:00 pm
On-Call phone: **218-616-1631**

Location:
812 Henrietta Ave. S, Park Rapids
(Between K-Bid and the Hubbard County Transfer Station)

Clean. Drain. Dispose.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program



2023 AIS Infested Waters Updates

- Hubbard County concerns:

- Zebra Mussels confirmed in Plantagenet
 - *A single mussel was found in the autumn of 2022.*
 - *A flurry of reported sighting by anglers immediately after fishing opener.*
 - *DNR confirmed multiple populations June 29th.*
- Starry Stonewort confirmed at the Long Lake south access.
 - *Discovered in early August by an aquatic plant survey hired by the lake association.*
 - *Small patch – aggressive chemical treatment followed by a hand-pull.*
 - *No other patches were discovered in follow-up dives.*

2023 AIS Infested Waters Updates

- In the neighborhood: Quieter than 2022...
 - Beltrami County:
 - *Blackduck: Starry Stonewort*
 - *North Twin: Starry Stonewort*



Image courtesy MN DNR

2024 Planning: Goals and Objectives

- Increase the number of decontaminations
 - Continue decon-specific radio advertisements – increase public awareness
- Increase the number of inspections per hour
 - Continue designing inspection schedules with water-usage trends in mind
- Starry Trek 2023
 - Sample lakes getting increased boat traffic from SSW lakes
- Continue the Weedstick pilot program
 - Provide & promote weedsticks for public use throughout the county.
 - Find unique ways to better encourage their useage.
- Continue to reach out to resorts with specific, resort-tailored messaging

2024 Funding: Items to note

- 2024 AIS State Prevention Aid
 - **\$263,911** (\$262,672 in 2023)
- Lake Association/Township Supplemental Funding
 - New inspector wages for 2023 were largely successful.
 - *42 total inspectors trained, 35 retained through mid-September (83%)*
 - \$25/hour 2023 inspection rate is expected to remain.
 - Contract negotiations are underway with Always There Staffing.
- 2024 Payment Deadline: **January 31st, 2024**
 - ~7,200 State funded hours expected (similar to 2023)
 - Supplemental funding letters will go out early November.
 - Please contact me with any updated lake association contacts!

Questions?

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