

# Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations

Nick Baum | Conservation Officer (Park Rapids)



www.dnr.state.mn.us/

# Biography / About Myself

- Started working for the MN DNR in 2016 as a Parks Worker at St. Croix State Park in Hinckley, MN
- Graduated Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Resource Management
- Hired by the Enforcement Division in 2018 as a CO Prep
- Completed Conservation Officer Academy in 2019
- Currently serve in the Minnesota Army National Guard with the 2-147<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Battalion out of St. Paul
- I enjoy everything outdoors hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, working, and riding recreational vehicles
- I am currently in my 9<sup>th</sup> year of service with the MN Army National Guard



# Working with Other Agencies

- State Law Enforcement Agencies
- Sheriff's Office / Local Police



- Daily patrol / Recreational Vehicle Patrol (ATV, Snowmobile, Boat) / Assisting
- DNR Divisions (Eco / Water, Fish / Wildlife, Forestry, Lands / Minerals, Parks / Trails)
- County Environmental Services
- County Forestry
- Volunteer / Non-Profit Organizations



# Which Agency Enforces What?

- Conservation Officers
  - State Laws
- Foresters
  - Limited to specific violations related to Forestry
- Park Rangers
  - Limited to specific State Park Violations
- Sheriff's Office



# When to Call What Agency?

- Anytime there is concern for the environment or public safety
- Call the subject matter expert
- Turn In Poachers Hotline
  - 800-652-9093
  - https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/enforcement/tip.html
  - Download the MNTip app



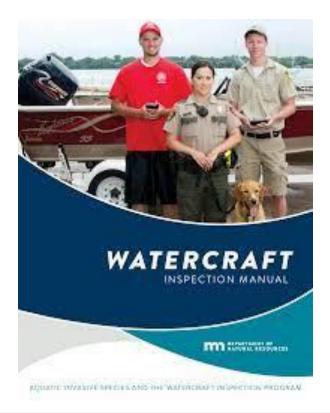
#### Support DNR Conservation Officers

- Call the MN DNR, if you see something, say something
- Ask questions when we are out working on the lake
- Continue to promote healthy lakes
- Clean-up efforts



#### **AIS Inspector and Conservation Officer**

- Ask questions we may not have the answer, but we will find it
- See something, say something
- Communication and documentation is key



### AIS in New Body of Water

HELP

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 watercraft without draining water, removing the drain plug, and opening water-draining devices

 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

nesota Department 

of Natural Resources

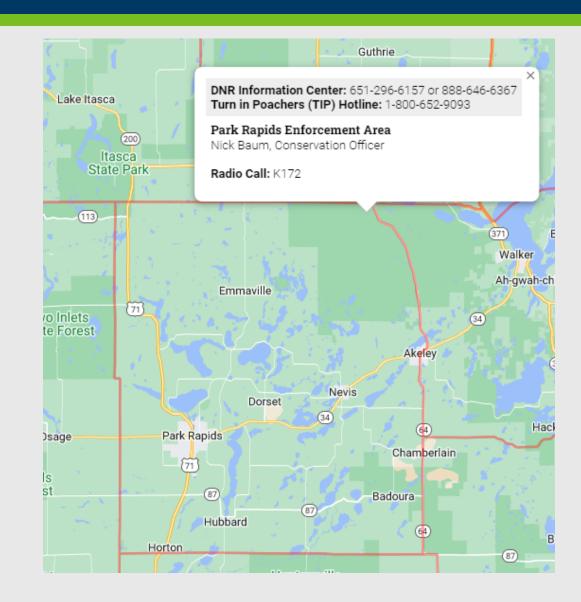
- Enforcement's role
  - Investigate possible suspects
  - Citations / Civil Citations / Warnings
    - Monetary to watercraft license suspension
  - Transfer information to subject matter experts





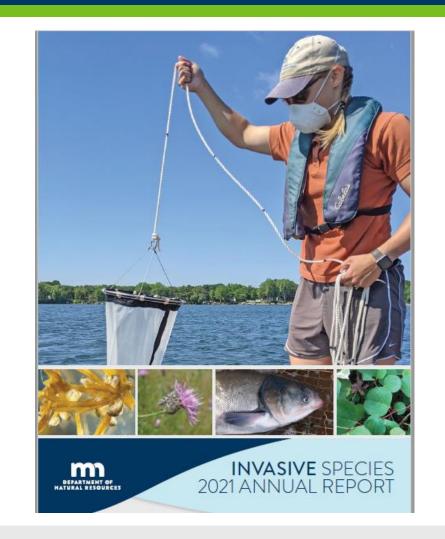
## Resources the MN DNR supports / Covers

- Waters
- Forest
- Wetlands
- Parks
- Trails
- Wildlife
- Fish



## **Ongoing Efforts**

- Communication is key
- Stay patient
- Continue to promote
- Be visible to lake goers
- DO NOT STOP CARING





# Questions?

#### **Conservation Officer Nick Baum**

Nicholas.baum@state.mn.us

651-253-7971

www.dnr.state.mn.us/



# Thank You!

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