

Example Lake Association AIS Rapid Response Action Plan

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The following action plan for an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) infestation on Our Lake is based upon the statewide AIS DNR Rapid Response Plan (1-29-2013 Draft) http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/natural_resources/invasives/rapid-response-ais.pdf and will later incorporate the Hubbard County RRP being formulated.

AIS infestations may include zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, starry stonewort and several others. Generally, Our Lake Rapid Response Action Plan will vary depending upon the type and level of infestation.

Based upon a DNR confirmed AIS infestation, a response team will be formed to support the DNR Rapid Response effort and to execute local actions focused on Our Lake, our downstream chain of lakes, and surrounding lakes.

Team members for the local RRP include Our Lake AIS Team (2-3 volunteers) and the Hubbard County AIS Program Coordinator. Other stakeholders include the DNR, Hubbard County Commissioners, Hubbard County Parks and Trails and Our Lake Association Board of Directors.

Our Lake Rapid Response Plan (RRP) Actions:

1. Build awareness of the infestation, containment effort and eradication plan, if any, through a Countywide communication program. This should include local news media, public forums, a direct mailing to Our Lake property owners and direct communication with each resort / business.
2. Increase resort involvement with containment actions on Our Lake. Resort guest's boats entering and leaving Our Lake should use the main public access for launch site inspections and watercraft decontamination.
3. Increase watercraft inspection activity on public launch sites during peak traffic months of June, July and August.
4. Install a portable Decontamination station at or near the public launch site and decontaminate all boats leaving Our Lake that are headed for other waters within the next 7 days.
5. Discourage boat traffic within Our Chain of Lakes. Look for ways to delay the spread of AIS downstream. Downstream lake may be listed "infested".
6. Require Lake Service Providers to decontaminate equipment.

7. Closely manage all fishing tournaments on Our Lake to minimize the spread of invasive species.
8. Encourage the closure of all private accesses (PUD's and personal) and route launches of watercraft through containment-focused public access. The County Commissioners would need to approve a formal "Shut Down".
9. Increase AIS monitoring activity on Our Chain of Lakes and Our Lake.
10. Establish funding mechanisms.
11. Establish an AIS Response team to lead this work. Should include the DNR, County AIS function, Lake Association, County Commissioners, and Township leaders.
12. Early Detection of AIS on Our Lake is an important factor in Our Lake Rapid Response Action Plan. Engage and Educate Our Lake Lakeshore Owners in opportunistic AIS identification methods.