DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Take Action to Protect Your Lake Against AIS

Nicole Kovar, R1 Invasive Species Specialist

Topic Overview

- Lake Association and Individual Participation
- Early Detection and Monitoring
- Ready Response

Participation on Lake Association level

- Participate on county AIS Task Force / Committee and talk with your representatives
- AIS control (partially or completely funded through county aid and DNR grant)
- Provide match to a LGU for inspections
- AIS volunteer/ambassador program, UofM Ext Detectors and Trackers
- Education at local events (county fair, parades, water festivals, etc.)
- Create publications or newsletters for members on AIS concerns specific to your lake
- **Create a Ready Response plan specific to your lake and/or species of concern**
- **AIS Early Detection and Baseline Monitoring (zeb monitoring, etc)**

Starting an AIS Early Detection and Baseline Monitoring Program

What are the goals of your AIS monitoring program?

What are the Known AIS Issues?

Who will monitor?

Committee Members?

Training

Lake Map & Monitoring Areas

- Docks, Boat landings, Shoreline, Shallow areas, Deeper areas
- Indicate who will be in charge of each monitoring area

What AIS will you monitor?

Timeline

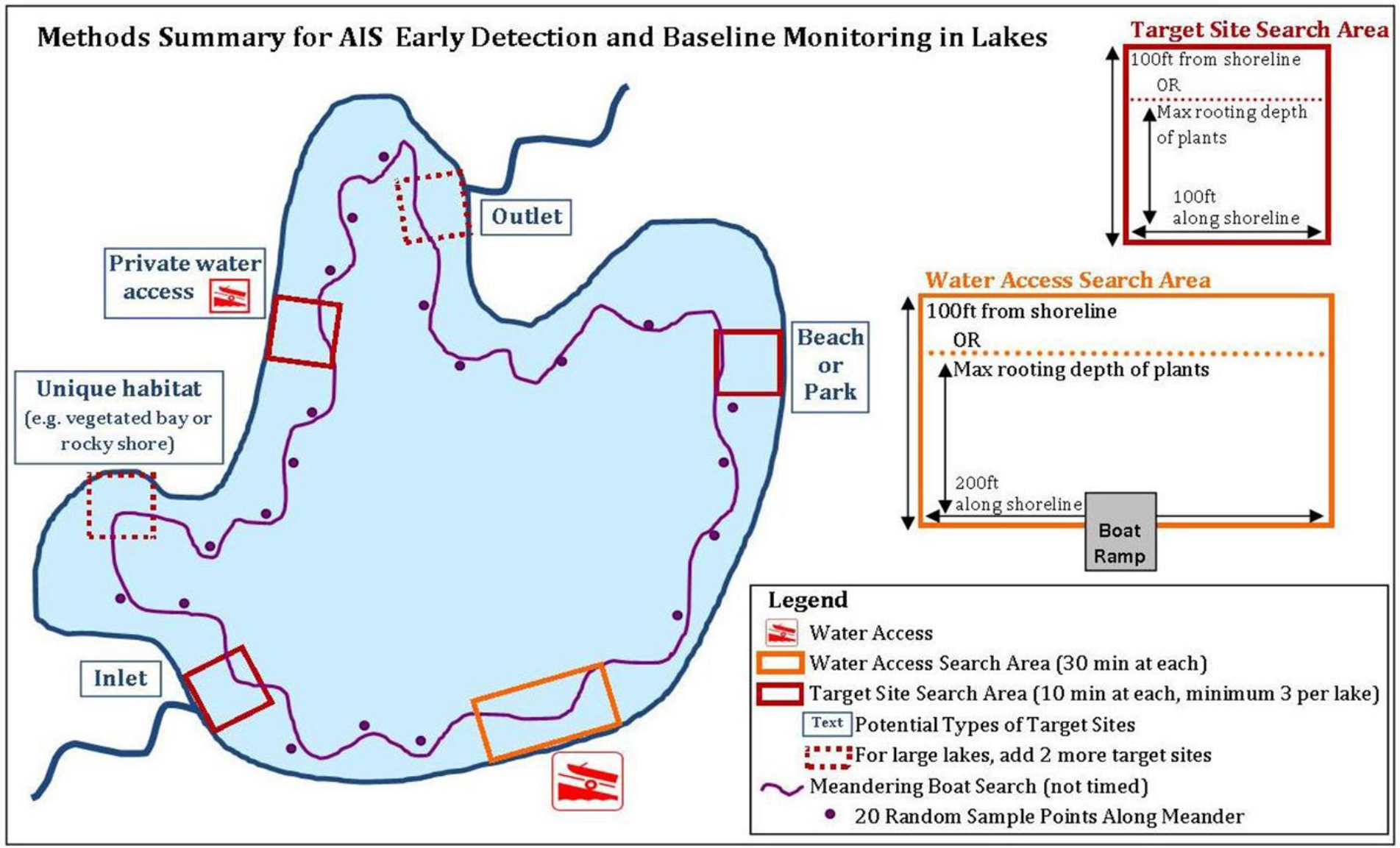
Monitoring Methods & Reporting

Evaluation

Guidance for Conducting AIS Early Detection and Baseline Monitoring in Lakes

- **Provides a standardized set of procedures** (protocol, field data sheets, and data inventory) to supplement DNR efforts in early detection and baseline monitoring of AIS throughout various lakes in Minnesota.
- **Intended for those with training** searching for and identifying AIS.
- **Search methods include:** a lake-wide meander of the near-shore zone, wading, snorkeling, netting, and rake sampling in areas most vulnerable to AIS.
- **Data collected should be maintained by those conducting the monitoring** and may be submitted to DNR AIS staff on an annual basis.

Overview of Methods



Field Survey Form

AIS Early Detection and Baseline Monitoring Datasheet

Field Preparation: Review AIS infested waters list (http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html). *Only collect a specimen if the species is not listed as being present in the waterbody. Review specimen collection procedures for proper collection methods. Recording locations during survey (via. GPS unit) is recommended. ****Providing the location of newly discovered AIS is required.**

End of Survey: CLEAN YOUR GEAR TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AIS. If specimen(s) collected, notify a local MN DNR Invasive Species Specialist immediately. Coordinate a drop off time or submit data via e-mail.

Location				
Lake Name:		County:		DOW#:
AIS listed as present in the lake (see infested waters list):				
Data Collector				
Primary Data Collector Name		Phone Number or Email		
Date(s)		Start Time		End Time
What Species did you Search For? (list all here OR write "see back" and circle target species on *potential species list* provided)				
Animals:		*Plants:*		*Other:*

Field Data					
Site (WA/TS/B +site number) e.g. WA#001	AIS Found (List Species)	Depth (ft)	Density Ranking (1-4)	Specimen Collected*? (Y/N)	Observation Notes

List of ALL AIS discovered:

☐ New AIS detection? - CONTACT MN DNR INVASIVE SPECIES SPECIALIST

Equipment

- Equipment
  - Double sided rake
  - D-net
  - Snorkel equipment (depending on water clarity)
  - Waders
  - Watercraft
  - GPS unit
  - Identification resources for AIS ID
- Areas of focus
  - Water accesses
  - Unique features / high use areas
  - Littoral zone (area from shore to *about* 15ft depth)

When to Monitor

Planning Field Work

Monitor for AIS when the species is most easily identifiable

- Month(s) it is in flower
- Monitor twice per year – to catch early season and late season species

Move from the top of the watershed downstream

Move from non-infested waters to infested

- Schedule infested waters at the end of the day/week
- Try to wait 5 days after work in zebra mussel infested waters

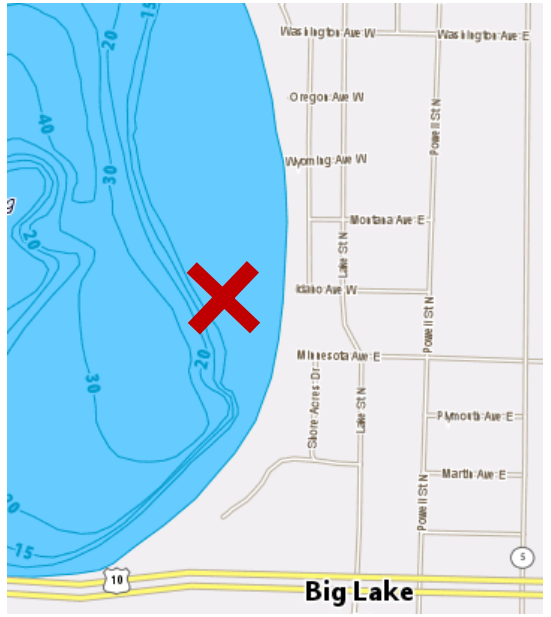
Track and dedicate equipment used in infested waters

Clean ALL gear after EVERY waterbody

- Suggested: Follow Operational Order 113

Report New Infestations

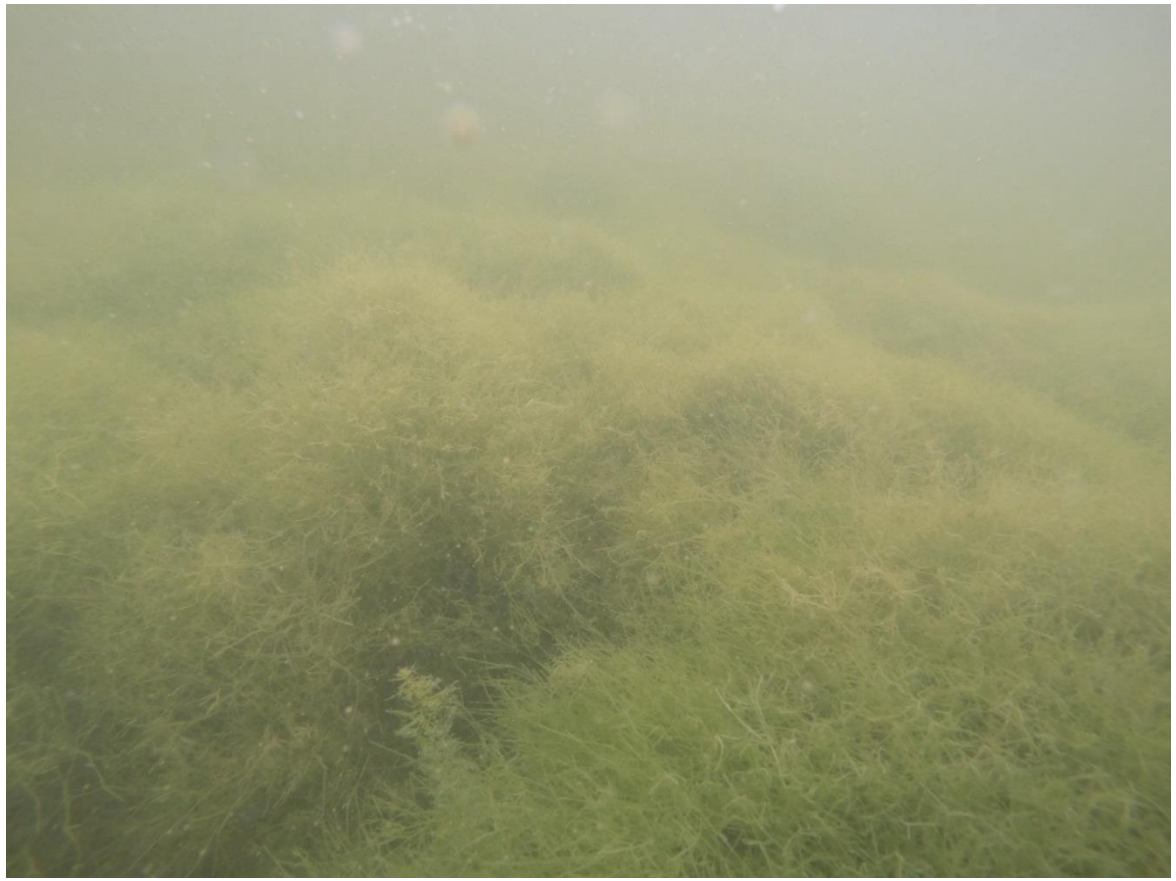
If you suspect a new infestation of an aquatic invasive plant or animal, note the exact location, take a photo, keep the refrigerated specimen in a closed container, and call the **DNR AIS specialist Nicole Kovar** 218-732-8960 x222 Nicole.kovar@state.mn,.us

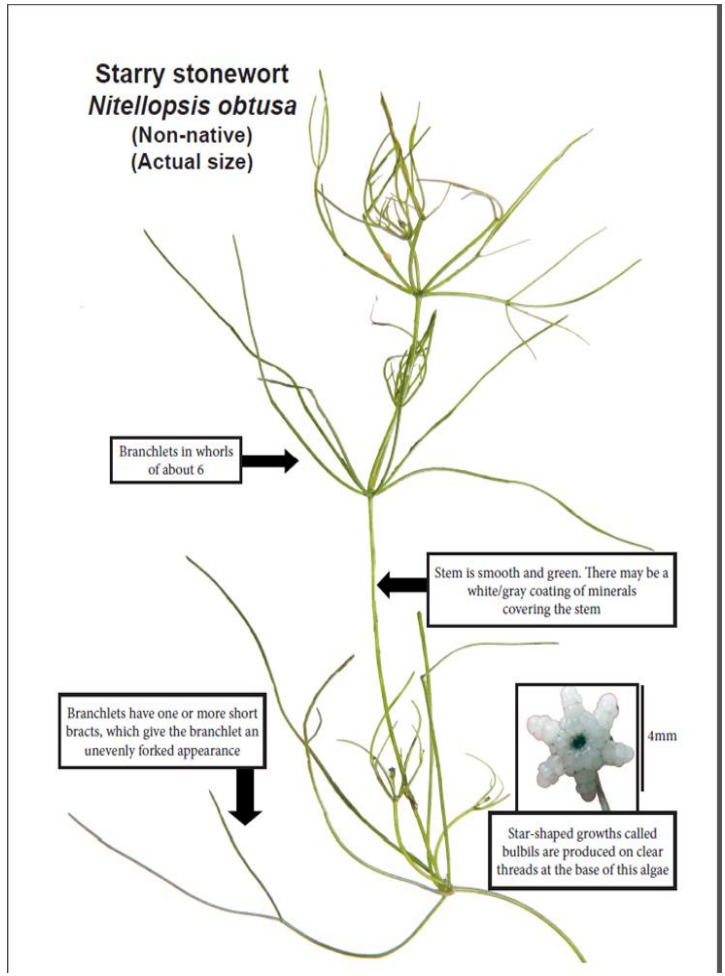


Minnesota Ready Response Plan for AIS

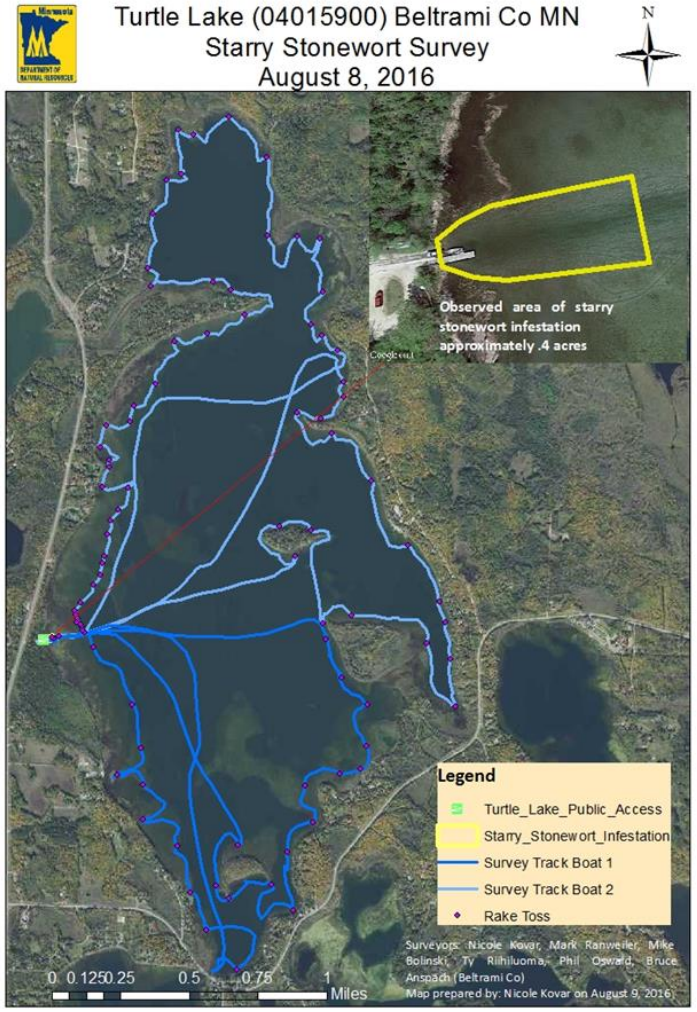
- Early detection and reporting of AIS
- Confirmation of AIS
- Notification of early detection of AIS
- Containment of AIS
- Assessment of the distribution of the AIS in the body of water
- Planning the ready response to the AIS
- Implementation of the ready response to the AIS
- Monitoring of the effectiveness of the ready response to the AIS
- Restoration following ready response to the AIS

Starry Stonewort in Big Turtle Lake





Response and Treatment



Specific DNR Ready Response Activities

Assess the AIS infestation size and distribution by DNR staff,

Notify local lake associations, local units of government, sportsmen's clubs, etc.

Issue a news release about the new infestation,

Post Invasive Species Alert signs at the water accesses,

Investigate AIS treatment options,

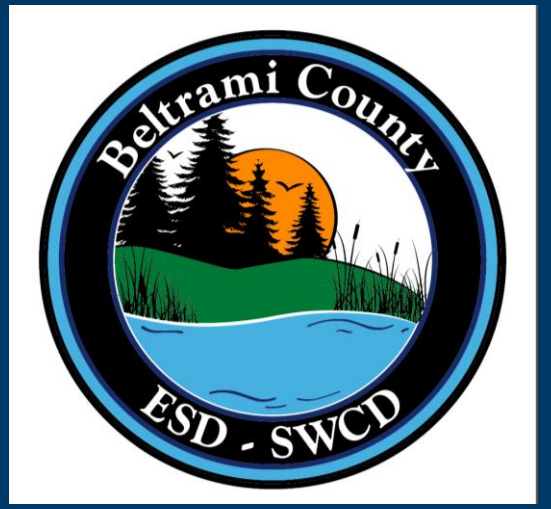
Increase watercraft inspections at public water accesses on the new infested waters,

Designate the waters as infested waters,

Increase enforcement in the new infestation areas, and

Consider and assess prevention options to curb the spread to upstream waters.

Partnerships



Contractors:

Roles and Responsibilities

MNDNR- EWR, FAW, PAT, LAM, lead on funding and staff to implement project, inspectors

Beltrami County- inspectors, disposal site, continued SSW inspections, continued education and outreach

Turtle River Watershed Association and members-valuable connection to the members of the watershed, continued education and outreach, avenue to bring stakeholders together, increase of public support for the project

Kohl's Resort- key in the closure of the public access to prevent spread of SSW in Turtle and to other waterbodies

Ready Response at the Lake Level

Contact your regional AIS staff with photographic evidence

Raise awareness:
Newsletter, info at boat landings, to local lake service providers, Volunteer as a DNR watercraft inspector at your lake access

Communicate with the DNR and SWCD

Appoint a leader or "champion" for AIS on your lake

Find sources of and secure funding for AIS work

Hire a consultant to conduct response step(s) like assessment, management, and/or monitoring

Obtain permits (state, local, potentially federal)

Obtain permission (landowners, local government, state)

AIS management planning- discuss management options such as hand-pulling, mechanical, and/or herbicide treatments.

Assist with implementation of management actions and/or monitoring efforts

Update your AIS Early Detection and Baseline Monitoring Program Plan

A *response* is an act of freedom, an opportunity to act with a sense of responsibility, a carefully thought-through process which focuses on dealing with a situation.

A *reaction* is an automated emotional response to a trigger. This trigger comes from your beliefs, your values, your past…. Essentially, a reaction is a thoughtless automated response. It can often perpetuate a problem, or exaggerate an event.

The difference between the two? You “Have” a reaction…. But you “Make” a response. The reaction is involuntary….. The response is a conscious choice. When you react you have no power, when you respond you are in control.

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Thank you!

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