



Aquatic Invasive Species Area Challenges and the Ready Response Strategy

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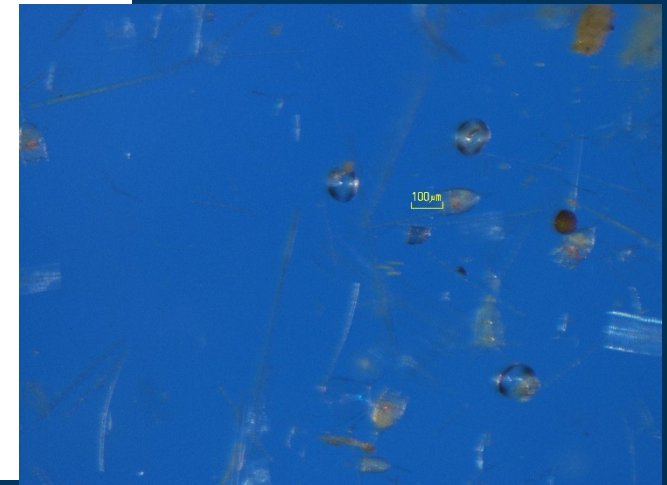
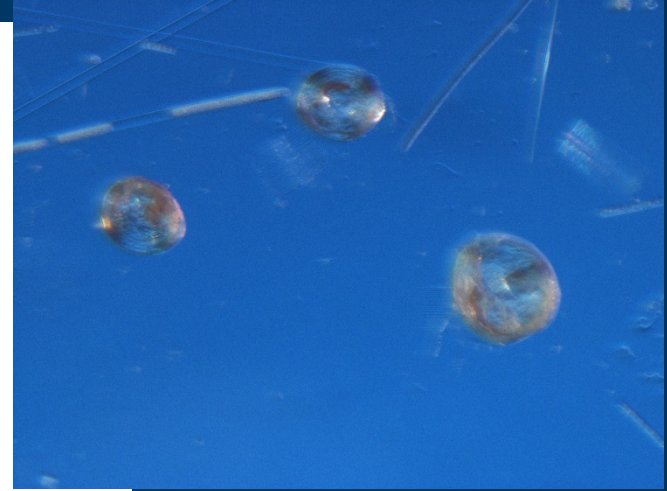
Topic Overview

- Area AIS Infestations
 - Leech Lake Zebra Mussel Veligers
 - Beltrami County Starry Stonewort
- Starry Stonewort
- Ready Response

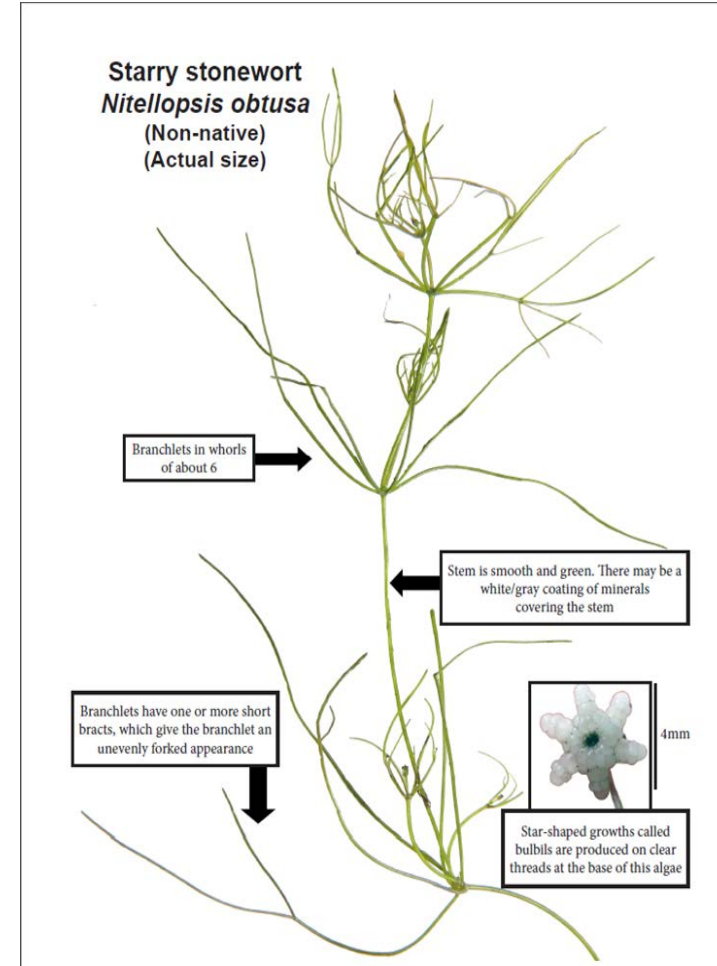
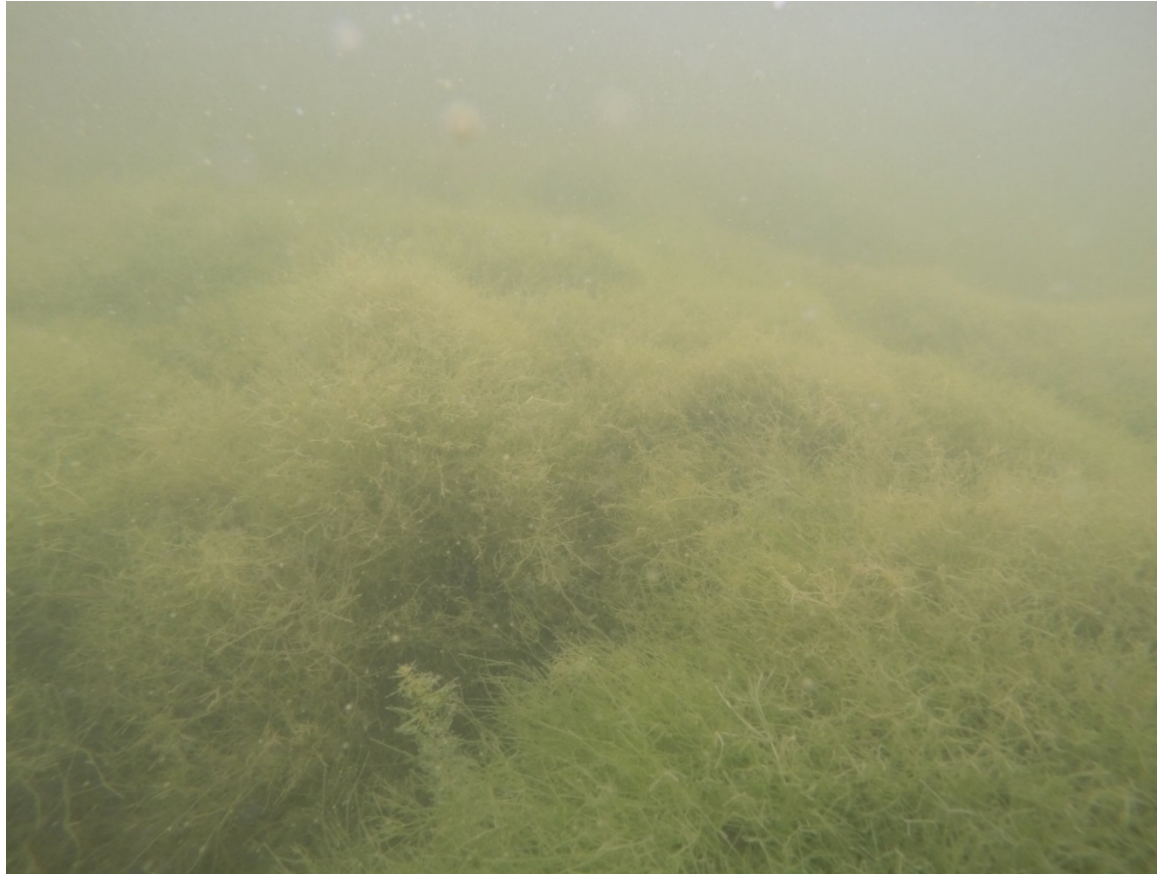
Area Infestations and Proximity

- Zebra Mussels
- Faucet Snails
- Starry Stonewort
- Eurasian Watermilfoil
- Curly-leaf Pondweed
- Mystery Snails
- Rusty Crawfish

Leech Lake Zebra Mussel Veligers



Starry Stonewort in Big Turtle Lake



Starry stonewort

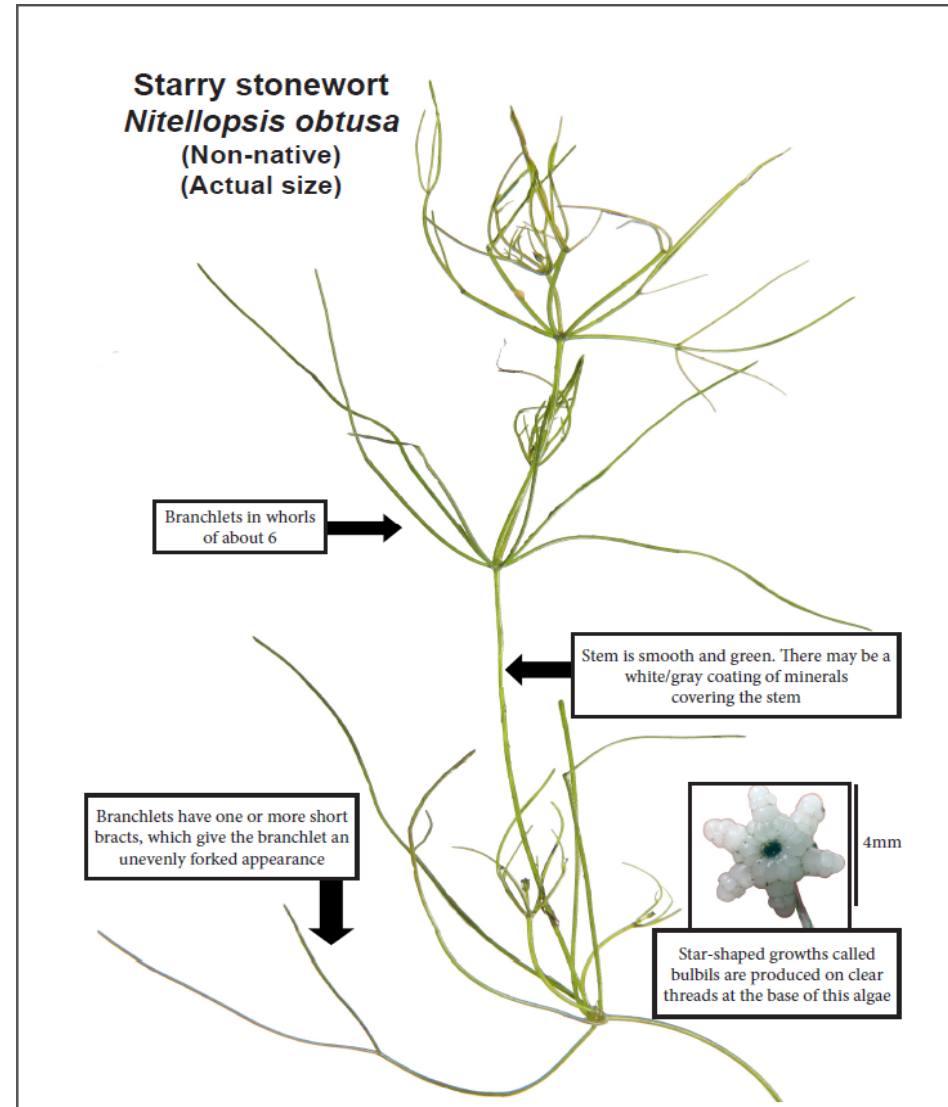
Nitellopsis obtusa

Biology:

- Native to Europe and Asia
- Large, grass-like form of algae
 - Characeae family
- Only male starry stonewort present in United States
 - No seeds are produced

Identification:

- Branchlets of 5-8 whorls, each with 1-2 long bract cells
- Appearance of the branchlet being forked
- White, star-shaped bulbils



Starry stonewort

Nitellopsis obtusa



Means of Spread:

- Unintentional transfer of bulbils and/or plant fragments

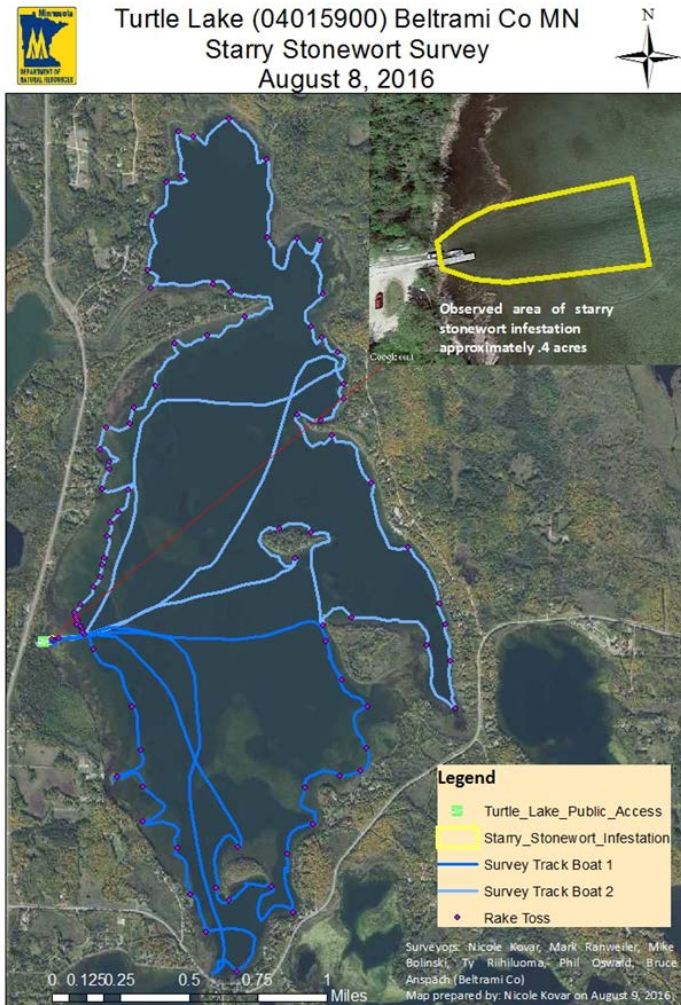
Impacts:

- Dense mats, at water surface
- Interfere with recreational activities
- May displace native vegetation
- Potential to impact fishing habitat

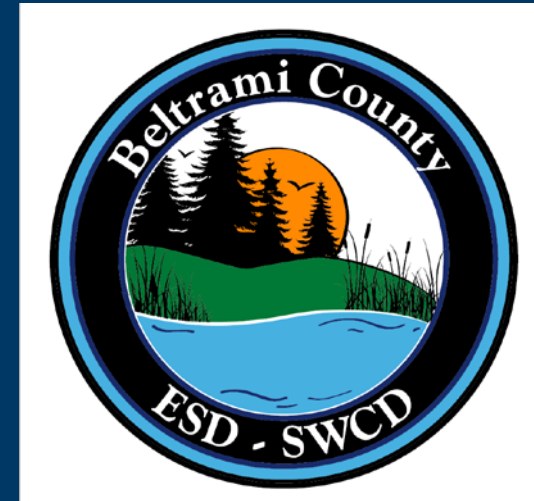
History:

- First found in US 1978 (1974)
- MI for over a decade
- Found in MN 2015

Ready Response and Treatment Plan



Partnerships



Ready Response at the Lake Level

- Contact your regional AIS staff with photographic evidence
- Raise awareness
 - Provide information in your group newsletter
 - Provide information and SAH materials at boat landings
 - Provide information to your local lake service providers
 - Volunteer as a DNR watercraft inspector at your lake access
- AIS management planning- work with your regional DNR to discuss management options such as hand-pulling, mechanical, and/or herbicide treatments.
- Update your AIS Early Detection and Baseline Monitoring Program Plan



HOW YOU RESPOND
Makes All The
Difference

**OUR REACTION
TO A SITUATION
LITERALLY HAS
THE POWER TO
CHANGE THE
SITUATION
ITSELF.**
KUSHANDWIZDOM



- **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.



Participation on Lake Association level

- Participate on county AIS Task Force / Committee
- AIS control (partially or completely funded through county aid and DNR grant)
- Provide match to a LGU for inspections AIS Early Detection and Baseline Monitoring
- AIS volunteer/ambassador program
- Education at local events (county fair, parades, water festivals, etc.)
- Create publications or newsletters for members on AIS concerns specific to their lake
- Create a rapid response plan specific to their lake and/or species of concern

- It's everyone's responsibility – everyone can do their part to protect our waters from invasive species.

Thank you!

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