

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Detection, Containment & Management Recommendations

Submitted to SD Game, Fish and Parks

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Communication and Outreach

1. Abandon overall philosophy and language suggesting “There is nothing that can be done” and “No matter how much money we throw at it, we can’t stop it.” Work with SDLSA to develop core messaging language that everyone can get behind, such as “AIS is a serious problem, and we need to do everything we can to contain and slow spreading” and “Research is promising and on the horizon for mitigation, and we need everyone to learn about AIS and do their part to not spread it from one body of water to another.”
2. Build messaging that aligns with Secretary Robling’s statement on December 13, 2023 collaborative meeting that SDGFP is focused on all forms of AIS, not just zebra mussels.
3. Create public awareness messaging campaign of other AIS threats that have not reached SD yet (starry stonewort, Eurasian water milfoil, spiny water flea), but are near our border.
4. Create public awareness messaging campaign that educates the public on how AIS harms lakes, rivers, and water infrastructure. Inform how will damage the statewide water ecosystem. Include photos showing harmful effects, such as images of invasive plants covering the surface of a lake.
5. Incorporate the specific recommendations outlined in the Western Regional Panel Education Committee report entitled “Effectiveness of Aquatic Invasive Species Public Awareness Campaigns for Eliciting Prevention Behaviors”.

SDLeastWanted

1. Revamp Citizen AIS Detector section of the site to add information on detecting invasive plants. Link to information on how to identify invasive plants and other invasive organisms that citizens should be alert for.
2. Feature prominent photos and educational information about other AIS that are near our borders. Include photos that clearly depict what the harmful impact can look like.
3. Develop easy and clear pathway for citizens to interface with GF&P to have suspected plants evaluated to determine if actually AIS. Make prominent on website.
4. News and Updates tab – currently reports infested bodies of water and that monitoring in a generic sense. Add what is being done about it.

Clean Water Rinse Stations

1. Thoroughly evaluate access landings in SD waters that are routinely used by citizens and have developed properties. Determine where clean water and filtered freshwater cleaning stations can be installed, such as:
 - a. Fish cleaning stations at state parks,



- b. Recreation area and state managed boat ramps,
 - c. Community fish cleaning stations (Chamberlain, Ft. Pierre, Webster)
 - d. Individual lakes with associations, working with SDLSA to access membership.
2. Develop budget for implementation of stations and signage, along with a pathway for funding:
- a. State appropriation through GF&P budget,
 - b. Provide grants to businesses such as fishing lodges, hotels, and bait shops to install stations and signage,
 - c. Seek other local and federal funding sources, such as USGS 104B & 104G mini grants, Midwest Glacial Lakes Habitat Partnership.
3. Explore cameras for virtual monitoring for frequent access stations, establish benchmarks for what would be considered success and methodology to evaluate usage.

Nuisance Aquatic Plant Management

- 1. Provide complete information about laws, regulations, procedures and guidelines for lake associations and property owners about containment, removing and/or chemically treating nuisance aquatic plants (both non-invasive and invasive). Have information easily accessible online, along with easy to interface when state permission needs to happen prior to action step.
- 2. Provide educational information about the importance of native aquatic vegetation to a healthy lake ecosystem and explain that removing them should be done only when necessary and on a limited basis.

AIS 2024 Awareness Week

- 1. Launch with message from Governor.
- 2. Plan, communicate and coordinate activities with SDLSA, lake associations and wildlife organizations.
- 3. Adopt a theme or slogan for 2024 AIS Awareness Week that catches public attention, such as “It’s Not Just About Zebra Mussels”.
- 4. Provide lake associations and wildlife groups with AIS Awareness Week information at least 45 days in advance so it can be incorporated into their own constituent emails, newsletters, and social media during AIS Awareness Week. Key is to have available well in advance to distribute in coordination with SDGFP. Subsequent years, 60 days ahead.
- 5. Schedule media events to demonstrate how to clean, drain and dry properly.
- 6. Rotate images on social media of AIS impaired lakes and rivers to increase awareness of the negative impact from several forms of AIS. Continue to use these images throughout the open water boating season.
- 7. Work with lake associations and wildlife groups to provide information during AIS Awareness week about the nearest decontamination and watercraft cleaning



equipment can be found in their area.

Watercraft Inspections/Enforcing Codified Law

1. Add more roving watercraft inspection crews statewide, enhance presence in NE part of state.
2. Incorporate more images and videos of inspection crews in action into social media communications, including examples of violations.
3. Increase the percentage of violations that receive a citation to send a stronger message that violators are getting fined.
4. Work with lake association to schedule a date for roving inspection team to visit lakes to provide demonstrations and raise awareness. Provide enough advance notice to all local publicizing.
5. Target roving inspection teams to do random fishing tournament inspections, not just on major highways but at the road close to tournament launch site.
6. Develop ongoing inspection/citation/location reporting data that is transparent and easily accessible for the public.

Future AIS Water Protection Issues Vision/Action Steps/Funding

1. Work with SDLSA to convene a statewide taskforce group that includes vested partners, such as, but not limited to: tourism, economic development, DANR, wildlife groups, water development districts, conservation districts, counties and researchers to develop a decade plan of development and public/private partnership. Establish shared vision and action steps.
2. Establish funding sources, beyond whatever grant funding is available, to achieve developed plan.

