

## Minnesota Waters' AIS Prevention Position and 2012 Work Plan

*In 2009, the Minnesota Waters Board of Directors created an AIS Task Team comprised of select board members, staff and advisory partners. The Task Team created Minnesota Waters' AIS Position Paper and Recommendations, "Aquatic Invasive Species in Minnesota's Waters – An Aquademic" which was adopted by Minnesota Waters Board of Directors on April 29, 2009. This position statement and work plan is based on Minnesota Waters' AIS Position Paper and Recommendations.*

Minnesota Waters believes that the spread of AIS (aquatic invasive species) must be blocked in the state of Minnesota as they threaten our economy, recreational opportunities and fish and wildlife habitats.

- Lakes and rivers are the foundation of Minnesota's multi-billion dollar tourism industry and the backbone of local economies across the state.
- Minnesota's "lake legacy" and cultural history of water recreation depends on healthy, usable lakes and streams.
- Minnesota is the home to abundant fish and wildlife, which rely on the unique, natural habitats found only along the shores and in the waters of healthy lakes and streams.

Minnesota Waters believes

- Every watercraft and piece of equipment leaving a known infested water body must be decontaminated\*.
- Every out-of-state watercraft entering Minnesota should be decontaminated before launching on any Minnesota lake or stream.
- AIS enforcement is a critical element of the AIS protection system and must be expanded.
- AIS inspections must be expanded.
- A sustainable, adequate funding source must be created to support statewide AIS prevention.
- The above programs must be private enterprise-friendly and state endorsed.

Minnesota Waters will:

- Support the development of a statewide mandatory decontamination\* program on all infested waters by
  - o Working with agencies, legislators and businesses to support privatizing opportunities.
  - o Working with lake service providers and other businesses to encourage the implementation of entrepreneurial decontamination stations.
  - o Providing citizens with step-by-step guides to advocate for and support the implementation of decontamination stations in their community.
  - o Leading a statewide campaign to advocate for mandatory decontamination for all watercraft/equipment leaving infested waters.