



April 15, 2020

### **How Resorts Can Help Prevent Introduction and Limit the Spread of Aquatic Invasives**

Thank you for providing resort and other services that draw visitors to the Itasca area. Many other Itasca businesses are dependent upon your success. The Itasca AIS Program seeks to **support your business** by working to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of invasives, including as zebra mussels, starry stonewort, and spiny waterflea, through our inspection and other clean water initiatives.

#### **We need your help:**

The Itasca AIS Program is asking resorts to implement a few simple steps to help prevent introduction and to limit the spread of invasives to the shores of your lake or river:

- **Know** which lakes and rivers already include prohibited invasives  
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>
- **Provide** AIS prevention information to your guests:
  - Prior to their stay, for example along with reservation confirmation materials you send
  - In the welcome packet or in the resort information booklet you keep in each guest cabin or guest room
  - The Itasca AIS program has an AIS Safeguards Flyer you can use and even customize with your logo for these purposes. The generic copy is included in this packet.
- **Ask.** Your guests may bring watercraft and other recreational gear to use during their stay, or will move their boat during their stay from one lake or river to another for fishing or recreation. **Please ask your guests what lakes or rivers those items were in prior to arrival**, and whether those items have undergone clean, drain, dispose, and dry.
- **Inspect.** If you find that guest watercraft and gear have been in waters including prohibited invasives during the past five days, **please inspect guest watercraft and gear prior to launch. Or** if you don't have the time or skills for careful inspection, **please refer your guests to the Itasca AIS program for inspection (218-256-4243).** The health of your lake or river depends on it. The Itasca AIS program will inspect and, if necessary, decontaminate your guest's watercraft and recreational gear for free.

Following inspection, some watercraft and gear may require decontamination. Decontamination for recreational gear like waders, inner-tubes, fishing, and other similar gear that can't hold standing water many times can be accomplished by visual inspection, removal of weeds and mud, along with a thorough warm or cold fresh-water rinse.

Watercraft, trailers, and gear coming from infested waters require careful inspection and may require thermal decontamination to DNR-specifications to keep your lake or river safe.

**The Itasca AIS program is happy to provide inspection and decontamination services for free (218-256-4243).** The AIS program also offers training for resorts, camps, and campgrounds that would like to perform decontaminations themselves.