

# Lakeshore residents' perspectives about aquatic invasive species management

Findings from a statewide survey of lakeshore residents

The purpose of this study was to assess Minnesota lakeshore residents' perspectives about aquatic invasive species (AIS) and AIS management. We administered an online survey of lakeshore residents across Minnesota from August to November 2021. We received 1,226 completed surveys for a response rate of 8%. Almost two thirds of respondents (64%) were male. A vast majority reported their race/ethnicity as White, not of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin (98%). Respondents' median age was 69. Most respondents had at least a college bachelor's degree (76%), and almost half of the respondents (45%) reported annual household income of more than \$100,000. Most respondents owned their home (98%) and owned a licensed boat or watercraft (97%).



**77%**

believe that AIS are very to extremely common in Minnesota



**72%**

believe that AIS are a severe problem in Minnesota

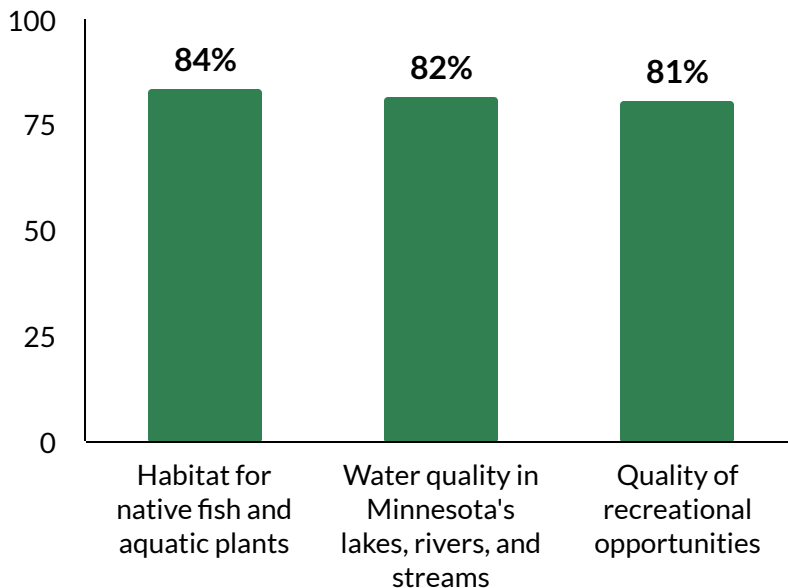


**82%**

have personally observed AIS in Minnesota's waters

## To what extent do respondents perceive risks of AIS?

% high to extreme risk

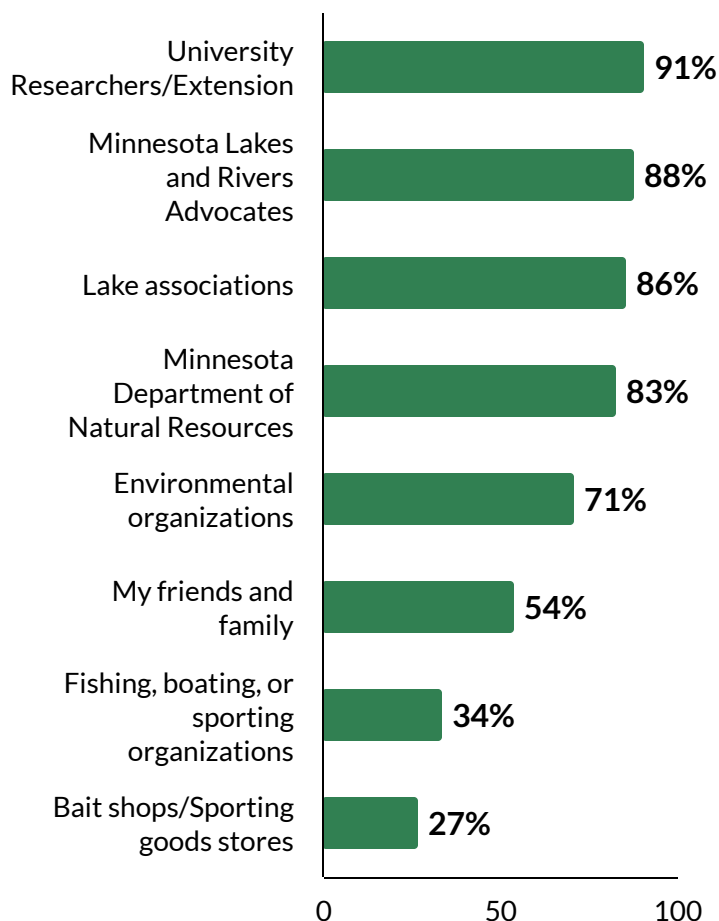


## Respondents reported high level of engagement in AIS prevention and control

- **86%** of respondents reported talking to others about AIS in the past 12 months
- **74%** of respondents reported donating money to an organization that aims to control or prevent AIS
- **65%** of respondents reported joining an organization that works to control or prevent the spread of AIS

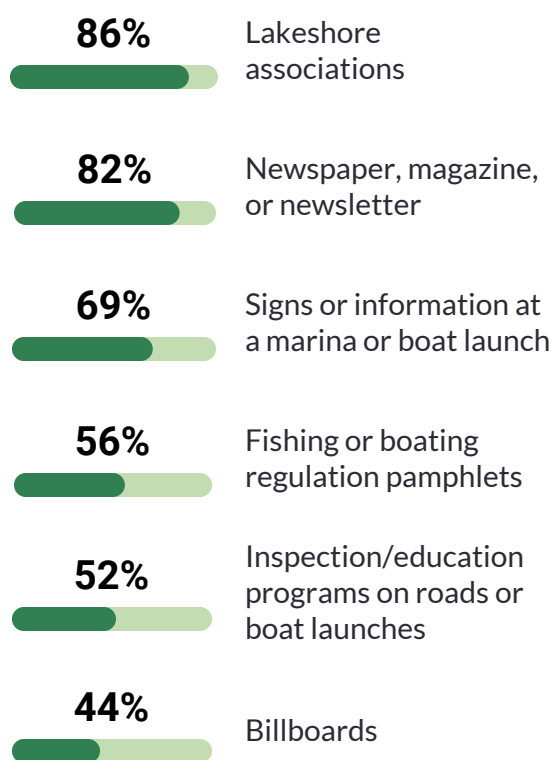
## What individuals or organizations do respondents trust for information about AIS?

% somewhat to strongly trust

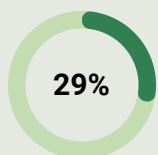


## Where do respondents get information about AIS?

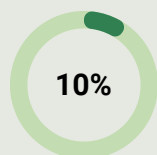
% received information in the past 12 months



### Respondents were not confident in their or their community's ability to address AIS issues



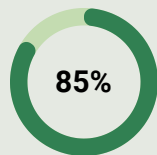
were very to extremely confident that their **personal actions can help reduce** the spread of AIS in Minnesota



agreed that **everyone is working together** when it comes to AIS control in their community



were very to extremely confident that **residents in their community can solve** the problem of AIS



disagreed or were unsure that their **community has the financial resources** it needs to manage AIS

## Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Jeff Forester at the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates for input on survey design and for survey administration with lakeshore residents. Thank you also to Lucia Levers for input on study design. Gratitude is also extended to the lakeshore residents across the state who took time to complete the survey. This material is based upon work supported by the U.S. Geological Survey under Grant Agreement No. G22AP00056. Additional funding is provided by the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences through the University of Minnesota's Water Resource Center.

