

MINNESOTA AIS PREVENTION AID

Since 2014, Minnesota's county Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid (AISPA) has been a game-changer in invasive species prevention, earning national recognition for its efficiency and impact. By directing funds to local governments—those closest to the problem and most motivated to act—AISPA has delivered unmatched results.



Annual Impact

Inspections & Decontaminations ~60%

- \$4.3M invested across 38 counties to hire 600+ inspectors, covering 180,000 hours and 335,000 inspections
- 2,000+ decontaminations at 768 accesses on 625 water bodies
- Local lake associations contributed an additional \$5M for extended inspection hours

Control & Rapid Response ~25%

- \$2.5M spent annually on control & rapid response, leveraging an additional \$587K from lake organizations for invasive plant management
- AIS surveys conducted on 641 lakes, with management actions taken on 187 water bodies

Education & Outreach ~8%

- \$350K spent on public education campaigns with nearly 13,500 children taught about AIS throughout close to 300 events.
- Outreach included 500 social media posts seen by nearly 200,000 followers and the *How Well Do You Know MN?* AIS video series that received over 1 million impressions.

Local investments:

AISPA is Minnesota's most effective local prevention effort. Beyond the annual funds, AISPA leverages an additional \$6.2 million in local contributions and 1.2 million volunteer hours from lake associations every year.

Stopping the Spread:

Minnesota has dramatically slowed AIS spread, outperforming other states. In Michigan, starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) infested nearly every inland lake in the Lower Peninsula within a decade—but in Minnesota, only 30 lakes have been affected in the same timeframe.

Powerful Partnerships:

The AISPA is one of the most exciting examples for the power and cost effectiveness of public/government partnerships. Counties report metrics while working directly with local and engaged stakeholders.

Protecting our Water Legacy

Every dollar spent on prevention saves \$100 in future management costs. AISPA has enabled local governments to establish long-term prevention plans, securing Minnesota's waterways and saving billions in future management costs.



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