



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2012-2013 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Management Expenditures: \$3,900,000 FY 2012 / \$4,000,000 FY 2013 Revenues: \$3,155,000 FY 2012 / \$4,407,000 FY 2013 (Natural Resources Fund – Invasive Species Account)

### **It is needed because**

Aquatic invasive species threaten not only the health of the state's water resources, but also the recreational enjoyment of, and economic benefits derived from, these resources. The spread of aquatic invasive species is one of the top conservation challenges facing Minnesota today—and the unintentional transport on trailered watercraft and water-related equipment is believed to be the primary means of spread.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for managing aquatic invasive species and implementing actions to prevent their spread. These efforts are funded primarily through the general fund and dedicated funding from the Invasive Species Account (ISA).

General fund support was increased by \$1.35 million during the second year of the FY 2008-09 biennium in order to expand prevention and management efforts by increasing public awareness campaigns, increasing invasive species enforcement, increasing watercraft inspections, and providing grants to local organizations' prevention and management activities. Since then, general fund support for the program has declined by \$53,000 due to the budget deficit.

The second primary source of funding for aquatic invasive species prevention and management is the ISA. Sources of funding to the ISA include a \$5 surcharge on watercraft registered in Minnesota and a \$2 surcharge on non-resident fishing licenses. The ISA has a structural deficit, which was addressed in the FY 2010-11 biennium through a one-time transfer of funds from the water recreation account in the natural resources fund. DNR proposes a more permanent

solution to this problem. Increasing the license surcharge for watercraft and non-resident fishing licenses will both eliminate the structural deficit in the ISA and increase funding for critical aquatic invasive species efforts.

### **Major program elements**

- Prevent the spread of invasive species into Minnesota;
- Provide early detection and rapid response to new infestations of invasive species; and
- Manage or reduce impacts caused by invasive species.

### **Priority-setting**

A state plan for invasive species provides guidance on setting priorities for invasive species prevention and management. Stakeholder input on priorities for invasive species prevention actions was solicited by the department in 2011.

### **Project locations**

Project locations are statewide.

### **Key measures and outcomes**

This initiative will improve DNR's ability to protect Minnesota's water resources and provide high-quality recreational opportunities by enhancing actions to manage aquatic invasive species and prevent their spread in the state. Examples of accelerated outcomes:

- Increase enforcement hours by an additional 12,800 hours, which would double the current enforcement effort;
- Control invasive aquatic plants on 60 additional lakes, increasing control of aquatic invasive species on lakes to 110 total;

- Increase support for local efforts to deliver invasive species messages;
- Develop and implement a licensing and training program for lake service providers;
- Accelerate public awareness efforts, including new messaging, and innovative use of 21st century communication technologies;
- Implement thorough watercraft inspections at high risk areas; and
- Provide infrastructure for pilot decontamination stations.

**Financial Implications (if appropriate)**

Aquatic invasive species efforts are primarily funded through the general fund and the ISA. The ISA generates approximately \$1,600,000/year, which is less than the current annual appropriation of \$2,142,000. Without an increase in funding, the ISA is projected to have a \$500,000 deficit in FY 2013. This initiative would increase revenues to the ISA by \$3.155 million in FY 2012 and \$4.407 million in FY 2013 and increase expenditures from the ISA by \$3.9 million in FY 2012 and \$4 million in FY 2013. The increased revenue would come from increasing license surcharges as follows: \$5 for canoes, \$15 for boats under 17 feet, \$20 for all other watercraft, and \$3 for non-resident fishing licenses.

**For further information contact:**

Steve Hirsch, Director  
Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-259-5106  
[steve.hirsch@state.mn.us](mailto:steve.hirsch@state.mn.us)