

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

INDICATORS: Number of water bodies infested with Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels

WHY ARE THESE INDICATORS IMPORTANT?

Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels are invasive species that harm Minnesota waters. Eurasian watermilfoil can displace native plants, degrade habitat for fish and wildlife, and limit lake recreation. Zebra mussels can block industrial water intakes (increasing operating costs), alter aquatic food webs, and eliminate populations of native mussels. Unintentional transport on trailered watercraft and water-related equipment is believed to be the primary means of spread for these aquatic species.

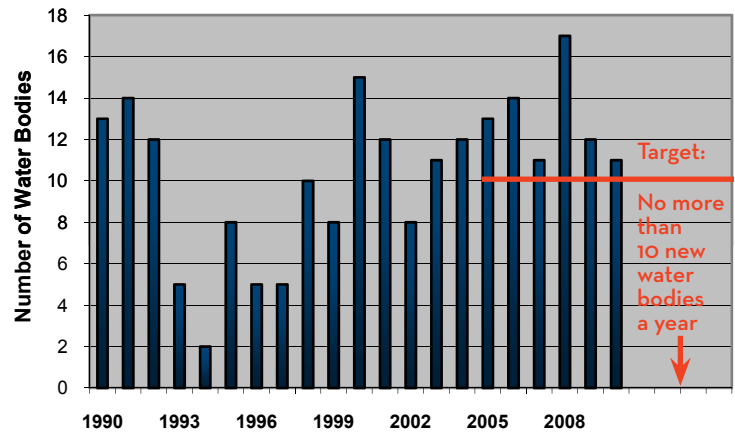
WHAT IS DNR DOING?

DNR works to increase public awareness and enforce related laws. DNR stations some 90 seasonal watercraft inspectors each year at public water accesses, primarily on infested water bodies, where they inspect boats and inform boaters about invasive species and actions they can take to prevent spread. Numbers of water bodies with Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels likely are much lower than they would have been without these efforts. DNR surveys Minnesota boaters and monitors the distribution of these non-native species to evaluate containment efforts. Although a vast majority of Minnesota boaters said they took action to prevent the spread, more efforts are needed as new infestations continue to be found in the state.

TARGET: Limit the rate of spread of Eurasian watermilfoil to no more than 10 new water bodies per year, and prevent spread of zebra mussels to waters not connected to previous infestations.

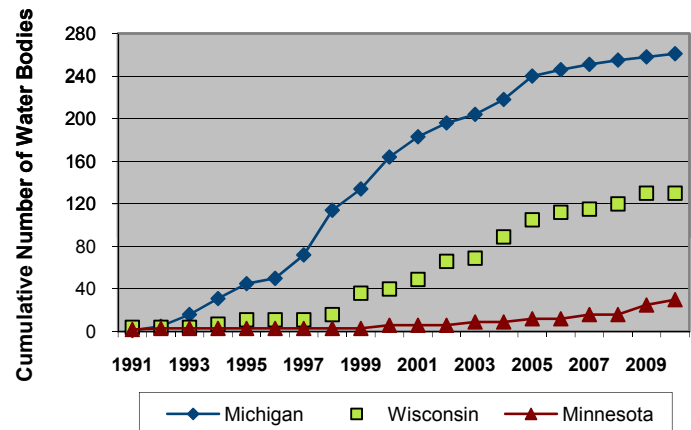
The best way to reduce impacts of harmful invasive nonnative organisms is to prevent their establishment. DNR is working to prevent introductions of new invasive species such as Asian carp.

Number of Additional MN Water Bodies Where Eurasian Watermilfoil was Found



DNR control efforts have helped keep Eurasian watermilfoil from spreading to additional water bodies at a rate slightly higher than the target of 10 new water bodies per year.

Number of Water Bodies with Zebra Mussels in the Upper Great Lakes States



Minnesota populations of zebra mussels are relatively low—and DNR aims to keep them that way.

LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- Other aquatic invasive species at: www.mndnr.gov/invasives/index.html