



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 18, 2015

Contact: Chris Pence

Phone: (218) 824-1125

### CROW WING COUNTY RELEASES YEAR END AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES DATA

According to the Crow Wing County Land Services Department, nearly 43,000 watercraft inspections for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) were conducted in 2015 by County or DNR inspectors at approximately 50 landings within the County. This represents over 10% of the total watercraft inspections conducted statewide.

Of those inspected, 57% were incoming watercraft to a Crow Wing County Landing. Over 97% of boaters had their drain plug out upon arriving at the landing. In addition 98.8% were clean upon entry (no plants, animals or zebra mussels).

“The data indicates that the vast majority of boaters are getting the message when it comes to preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS),” stated Mark Liedl, Land Services Supervisor. “Responsible boaters are pulling their drain plugs and cleaning off their boats and trailers before leaving landings.”

The county reports that only 20 of the 43,000 inspections found zebra mussels attached to the boat/trailer prior to launch. Only two new infestations of AIS were documented in 2015 in Crow Wing County: Ruth Lake for Zebra Mussels and White Sand Lake for Eurasian-watermilfoil. The infestations in both cases were subsequently treated and contained.

Other key findings from the data include:

- Cass, Aitkin, & Hennepin were the top 3 outside counties where boaters were coming from, followed by Washington, Mille Lacs, Wright, Carver, Stearns & St. Louis
- Iowa (528), Wisconsin (363), North Dakota (211), Illinois(150), and South Dakota (146) were the top 5 states where boaters were coming from (by vehicle license plate)
- Cross, Bay, Gull, Pelican, North Long, Lower Hay, Big Trout, Hubert, Mille Lacs and Whitefish were the top 10 lakes from which boaters had come where entering another lake. Minnetonka (the highest non-County lake) was #19.

Information specific to the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, including the 2016 plan, can be found on Crow Wing County’s website by searching “AIS.” AIS and other water protection activities conducted by the Environmental Services Division is compiled annually into a Water Protection Report, which is also available at [www.crowwing.us](http://www.crowwing.us) by searching “Water Protection Report.”

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County’s extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or [environmental.services@crowwing.us](mailto:environmental.services@crowwing.us) to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

#END#

**Mark Liedl**  
**Land Services Department**  
322 Laurel Street, Suite 14  
Brainerd, MN 56401

**Our Vision:** Being Minnesota's favorite place.

**Our Mission:** Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

**Our Values:** Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.

Office: (218) 824-1125

Fax: (218) 824-1104

[www.crowwing.us](http://www.crowwing.us)