








## Hubbard County's AIS Prevention Aid Program: A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2021

Category	Metrics
	<b>AIS Prevention Aid Used</b> \$ <b>263,681</b> AIS Prevention Aid used in calendar year 2021
	<b>People Doing AIS Work</b> 1 full-time staff dedicated to AIS work 1 seasonal contracted staff with AIS duties (other than inspectors) 45 Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors 4 Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors
	<b>Partnerships</b> Our partners include the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations and its AIS Operating Team, multiple individual lake associations, and several Townships.
	<b>Funds Distributed, Contributed and Leveraged</b> \$ <b>159,979</b> in funds contributed by lake associations, townships, and cities. 34 organizations contributing additional funds
	<b>Communities Engaged</b> Various community outreach efforts on local radio stations, billboard, movie theatre advertisement, and presentations at local coalition of lake association meetings. Distributed 18,000 bait bags with AIS messaging to local bait shops.
	<b>Watercraft Inspected</b> 24,001 inspections performed 15,074 hours of inspections performed 35 accesses covered by inspectors 33 water bodies covered by inspectors 98.74 % of watercraft recorded as arriving with drain plugs out 1 decontamination unit in operation by Level 2 inspectors 166 decontaminations performed
	<b>New Infestation Response Planning</b> Our county <b>does</b> have a new infestation response plan

### Program Summary

The Hubbard County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program was originally pioneered by Lake Associations that contributed funding and volunteered time in order to prevent the spread of AIS in Hubbard County. It wasn't until 2014 when the State AIS Prevention Aid was allocated, that the program was really able to expand and develop to what it is today. Although Hubbard County had several inspectors before State Aid was available, the addition of the State Aid has allowed Hubbard County to double the number of watercraft inspectors that are hired annually.

In 2021, \$263,681 was allocated to Hubbard County to combat the spread of AIS. The AIS Prevention Aid, along with Township, City, and Lake Association contributions, has allowed Hubbard County to administer an extensive AIS prevention program which includes: a County employee to coordinate the program, public awareness materials, radio PSAs, a decontamination station, a comprehensive watercraft inspection program, and an infestation response fund to prepare for potential future infestations. The above metrics summarize the Hubbard County AIS prevention work completed in 2021.

The goal of the Hubbard County AIS Program is to prevent the spread of AIS through education and public awareness. Hubbard County works with a local radio broadcasting company to create public service announcements (PSAs) that are aired on local radio stations promoting AIS prevention best management practices. Additionally in 2021, the AIS Program collaborated with the local coalition of lake associations on movie theater and billboard advertisements promoting AIS prevention best management practices. An added emphasis in 2021 was the live bait pathway of spread, so the AIS Program purchased 18,000 bait bags with AIS prevention messaging, and distributed them to local bait shops in Hubbard County.

In 2021, the bulk of the State Prevention Aid was utilized to operate a comprehensive Watercraft Inspection Program that consisted of 45 DNR certified Level 1 watercraft inspectors contracted through Always There Staffing, a staffing agency based out of Bemidji. Those inspectors worked a total of 15,074 hours at 35 public water access points. The inspectors started the season on May 14, 2021 and concluded on October 26, 2021. The vast majority of the inspection hours were worked between Memorial Day and Labor Day, heavily concentrated on the weekends and holidays when boater traffic is heaviest. During the 2021 open-water season, Hubbard County watercraft inspectors completed 24,001 inspections, which is the second highest number of inspections recorded in one year since the program's inception.

Another important component of the Hubbard County AIS Program is watercraft decontamination. Hubbard County operates a central decontamination station located in the City of Park Rapids where boaters can bring their watercraft, boat lift, dock, and gear to have them inspected and decontaminated by our DNR certified Level 2 inspectors. This decontamination service is at no cost to the boater. In 2021, Hubbard County completed 166 decontaminations, the highest yearly total since the station first opened.

## Program Spending Summary

AIS Program Budget

