

Take Action to Stop Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

act now

Dear Lake Advocate,

In the late 1990s zebra mussels were first discovered in Minnesota. The DNR began a program of education and stressed personal responsibility.

The zebra mussels spread.

Three years ago about 21 lakes were infested with zebra mussels. Today over 100 are designated - education and stressing personal responsibility have failed us. It is long past time Minnesota put an aggressive plan in place to stop these pests.

Fortunately we know what works. In the 1990s the Western Regional Panel established the [100th Meridian Initiative](#), a cooperative effort between local, state, provincial, regional and federal agencies to prevent the westward spread of zebra/quagga mussels and other aquatic invasive species in North America as their first line of defense.



A Comprehensive Plan Works

Western Regional Panel Protocols have significantly stopped zebra and quagga mussel spread west of the 100th Meridian.

Minnesota does not need to fail.

act now

A number of bills are currently moving through the legislature that add elements of the Western Regional Panel's protocols to Minnesota's AIS program and they **need your support**;

- We need a statewide framework to address the AIS issue at a watershed, region and intra-state level. Locals have been doing heroic work as a stop gap for the last two years, but only a watershed approach will stop the spread. Local Governments, Counties and Lake Associations must be coordinated and funded at the watershed

level for programs to be successful. Watershed's and therefore zebra mussels cross political boundaries. Only with a large scale approach can we be successful.

- In 2011 MLR succeeded in getting Western Regional Protocols listed in statute. Now we must legislate that they are implemented.
- Greater cooperation between agencies, including partnerships between DNR and Department of Transportation, USFS, USGS and US Wildlife to set up inspection and decontamination stations at Minnesota borders and weigh stations around the state.
- Create a meaningful intra-State panel to coordinate AIS efforts between States, at a regional level.
- Reliable, dedicated and adequate funding - local communities, counties and lakeshore owners simply do not have the resources to meet this challenge. The State must step up to protect the state's waters.

Action Needed:

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates has been lobbying and promoting bills that accomplish these goals. Write your legislators today. The ACT NOW button below will allow you to send a message to your legislators with a few mouse clicks. Together we can stop the spread of zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas and other pests across Minnesota's most valuable resource - our ten thousand lakes and rivers.

[act now](#)

Sign Up For Minnesota Lakes and River's Citizen's Action Network so that you can receive up to the minute information from the Capitol and around the state. Grassroots pressure is the best way to protect our lakes, so sign up today. We need all lake folks engaged.

