



## PRESS RELEASE

**Mark B. Liedl, Director  
Land Services Department**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### COUNTY STUDY SHOWS BOATERS DOING PART TO PREVENT AIS

Crow Wing County Land Services has released a report showing boaters are doing their part to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) in area lakes. During May, data was collected from 2873 boaters as part of the Minnesota DNR watercraft inspection program and revealed that 98.8% of boats had the drain plug removed when arriving at area launches.

Draining all water and cleaning all visible weeds and zebra mussels from watercraft before leaving a lake and transporting to another are the most important steps boaters can take to prevent the spread of AIS. 21 days of drying time is needed when purchasing used docks, lifts, or swim rafts before locating them in a different water body.

“A key goal of our county AIS plan is to effectively and proactively educate boaters on the important role they play in AIS prevention,” stated Mark Liedl, Land Services Director. “Limiting the spread of AIS in county waters can’t happen without individual boaters committing themselves to do the right thing.”

The county is working with volunteers, neighboring governments, and local businesses to spread AIS awareness information through public service announcements, signs, and advertising campaigns about the important role people can play in preventing and limiting the spread of AIS this boating season.

During May, local partners offered 3222.5 inspection hours on area lakes and conducted 2873 inspections. 43 watercraft were found to have vegetation or animals requiring removal prior to launch. Two boats were found to contain live zebra mussels, which were removed prior to launch including into Bay Lake which is not currently listed as infested for zebra mussels.

Information about county AIS prevention efforts, including interactive maps to search for the status of area lakes can be found on the web at [www.crowwing.us](http://www.crowwing.us), and search for “AIS.”

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.

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

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