

Resolution 2 County 4 2009

040209

**Resolution: Loss of privileges for repeat violations of AIS Transport law**

*The Problem:* AIS (aquatic invasive species) is spreading aggressively. Damage to the resource and cost to the public is extreme. Some boaters who violate AIS transport laws are not concerned about the low fine for that violation. Some would rather risk the fine than check their boat and trailer.

*The Solution:* We need a penalty that will prevent *repeat* violations of the AIS transport laws and *change the behavior* of repeat violators. In the 1980s, the Legislature imposed a large fine plus three-year's loss of hunting and fishing privileges that helped curb deer poaching. Considering the extreme costs associated with AIS, a similar strong penalty should be imposed for *repeat* AIS law violators.

Whereas:

- The spread of AIS by boaters remains a major threat to the health of our waters, and
- It can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to treat but never cure AIS infested waters, and
- The present forfeiture amount is regarded by some boaters to be a very minor cost, and
- Precedent was set for this when a significant fine and loss of license successfully changed the behavior of many deer poachers, and
- A similar penalty will cause irresponsible boaters to stop using their boats to transport AIS.

Be it therefore resolved that:

*For a second conviction of illegal transport of aquatic invasive species, offending boaters should face a three-year mandatory suspension of their Wisconsin hunting and fishing license and boat registration.*

*Submitted April 13, 2009 by*

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