

EWM and Other AIS Early Detection and Response Plan for the BCCLA

Monitoring

Continual monitoring of the Chain and the public access points for the presence of EWM and other AIS will be completed by trained volunteers, paid monitors, or hired resource professionals. Monitors will patrol the shoreline of the Big Chetac Chain at least once every month looking for EWM and others AIS. In-lake inspection at all public access sites will occur twice a month by recognized monitors and continually by lake volunteers. Monitors and volunteers will collect suspicious plants and animals and document where they were found. Samples will be submitted to designated Big Chetac Chain Lake Association personnel, the Sawyer County AIS Coordinator or County Conservationist, or the WDNR for vouchering

Collecting and Reporting Suspect AIS

Step 1 - Note the “suspect” plant or other AIS’s location on a lake map, making sure you can find the spot(s) again. If a GPS unit is available the location of the suspect AIS in the lake should be marked. If a GPS unit is not available, mark the location on a lake map, and “eyeball” the lake location by designated landmarks on the shore.

Step 2 – Collect two samples of the suspect AIS if possible.

Suspect Plant Species

Gently pull the plant from the lake bottom. Be sure to collect as much of the plant as possible, paying special attention to getting the leafy and flowering portion, if present. Try not to break up or rip the plant as the pieces of the plant can float away and start new plants. Place the entire suspect plant into an appropriately sized zip-lock bag. Using a permanent marker, the following information should be recorded on the bag: date, name of lake or waterbody, and description of where the sample was found. Put the sample bag in a cool place, either a cooler in your car or refrigerator at home, as soon as possible.

Suspect Animal Species

Suspect animal species like rusty crayfish or zebra mussels should be placed in a clean, small bottle or zip-lock bag with rubbing alcohol to kill and preserve the sample. Enough rubbing alcohol should be used to cover the sample. If rubbing alcohol is not available then the sample AIS can be preserved by freezing until it can be hand delivered to one of the previously stated contacts. Samples containing alcohol cannot be mailed.

Step 3 - If the person monitoring is a part of the CLMN AIS Monitoring Program, an Aquatic Invasive Plant Incident Report (Form 3200-125) should be filled out. If the person monitoring is not part of the CLMN AIS Monitoring Program, then record all pertinent information including contact information of who collected the sample, when and where.

Step 4 - Take the suspect specimen, pertinent information, and form 3200-125 (if used) to at least one of the following: the AIS monitoring team leader or other designated lake organization representative (if there is one), your local CLMN contact, your county AIS Coordinator or Land and Water Conservation Department Representative, UW-Extension office, or the local DNR contact for identification.

Step 5 - If EWM or other AIS is found in a lake where it has not been verified before, it is important to get the sample verified and vouchered by expert outside sources ASAP, so that control can take place in a timely manner. DNR staff can transport suspect AIS to the proper resources for vouchering. If your lake has been previously verified as having the suspect AIS, samples do not need to go to the DNR for vouchering. It may however, be beneficial to let your local lake organization representative know.

AIS Reporting Contacts

Big Chetac Chain Lake Association

To be determined

Sawyer County AIS Coordinator

Kristi Maki

Sawyer County SWCD

Dale Olson-County Conservationist

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Craig Roesler, Water Resources Biologist-Hayward

Kris Larsen, AIS Specialist-Spooner

Jim Kreitlow, Lakes Coordinator-Rhineland

Positive Identification

In the event, EWM, hydrilla, zebra or quagga mussels, or spiny water fleas are positively identified in the Big Chetac Chain, the WDNR and Lake Association representatives will install AIS information/caution signs at all access points clearly identifying what species has been found, when, and where. These are the only AIS species requiring posting of caution signs at public access sites. All CLP harvesting (if being implemented) in the area where the AIS was identified will immediately cease until arrangements can be made for the completion of a larger more intensive survey of that area. If appropriate, buoy markers will be placed in the lake to help boaters avoid the caution area until management can be undertaken.

Regardless of the AIS identified, an appropriate lake user information and education program focused on that species will be embarked upon. Print and digital media, public meetings, and instructional workshops will be used to publicize the new identification, report on impacts it may or not have to the lake, and to help identify what level of concern lake users and riparian owners should have regarding the finding.

AIS Early Detection and Response Grant Funding

The WDNR AIS Grant Program offers a quick response grant of up to \$20,000.00 for immediate control or management of new AIS discovered in a body of water if appropriate. These grants can be used to implement control measures, complete larger, more in depth surveys of the affected area or entire body of water, complete educational and informational activities, and help fund watercraft inspection and in-lake monitoring activities. The application process is expedited and some restrictions lifted if it can be shown that the activities funded under this part of the AIS grant will prevent further spread of the AIS within the body of water or outside the body of water. The WDNR contact for an AIS Response Grant for Sawyer County is Jim Kreitlow, Northern Region Center Lakes Coordinator.

Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan Modification

If the AIS discovered is an aquatic plant, the existing plant management activities may have to be modified. An evaluation will be completed to determine and then implement the most effective short-term management option. Either in the same year or the year immediately following the new identification, a larger whole-lake plant survey to look for the AIS will be completed. A formal AIS control plan for that species would need to be included in the next installment of the existing APM Plan.