



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

2023 OVERVIEW

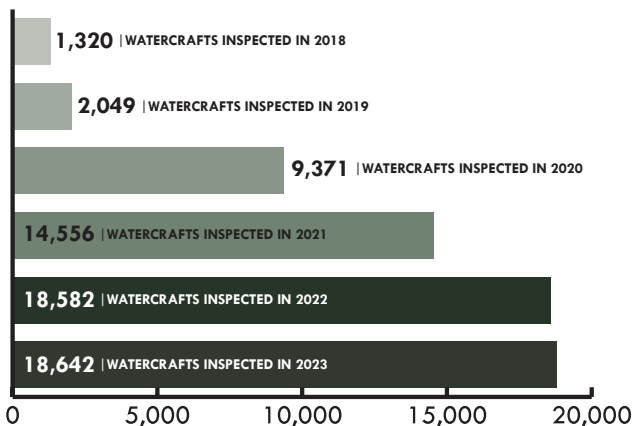
In total, inspections for aquatic invasive species (AIS) have increased in 2023 compared to 2021 and 2022. The increased inspections is in part thanks to partnerships with western South Dakota Conservation Districts, two new watercraft inspection crews, and refocusing roadside inspections efforts to high pressure roadways. In western South Dakota, funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which provides the Quagga and Zebra Mussel Action Plan (QZAP) funding, and West Dakota Water Development District supported the operation of nine inspection stations at six major reservoirs in western South Dakota. GFP staff also surveyed nearly 90 waterbodies across the state for AIS in conjunction with standard lake surveys.

GFP also continued education and outreach efforts to educate boaters and water users on best management practices, specifically focusing on “Clean, Drain, Dry” messaging. For a fourth year in a row, GFP conducted gas station television at 43 gas stations across South Dakota. Individuals who encountered these gas stations or utilized infested waterbodies were identified based on these locations to receive additional digital and/or social media advertisements following up on these messages. GFP continued their outreach and education aspect of the AIS Program by working with the Outdoor Campus’ in Sioux Falls and Rapid City to implement AIS education in with other outdoor education classes.

STRATEGY: MINIMIZE TRANSPORT OF WATER, VEGETATION, AND AQUATIC ANIMALS AMONG WATERS BY:

- » Increasing awareness of AIS and impacts to water users
- » Engaging boaters at inspection stations to help them develop best practices to slow the spread
- » Utilizing law enforcement to engage boaters and help increase regulation compliance

2018-2023 WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS



WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS

- » Maximize boater engagement to increase adoption of best practices to **Clean, Drain, and Dry** watercraft between uses. Three roadside stations and a roving watercraft inspection station were operated in central and eastern South Dakota to maximize boater contacts.
- » Operated stations at nine boat launch areas at the six largest western South Dakota reservoirs.
- » The USFWS funded stations at Angostura, Belle Fourche, Deerfield, Sheridan, Pactola, and Shadehill Reservoirs with the Western Dakota Water Development District also contributing to inspections in Pennington County.
- » In total, 18,642 watercraft were inspected in 2023, compared to 18,582 in 2022 and 14,556 in 2021.
- » Inspectors were hired between GFP and local County Conservation Districts. GFP added a new position, Eastern Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Supervisor, based out of Brookings that oversaw the northeast roving and roadside crew based out of Webster. Additional supervision was conducted in western South Dakota by the Western Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Supervisor who held the same roll in 2022.

STATION	2022 INSPECTIONS	2023 INSPECTIONS
Ft. Pierre	1,277	1,604
Webster	1,903	2,346
Sioux Falls	1,707	1,796
Angostura	4,493	3,906
Pactola	4,552	3,378
Deerfield	81	126
Sheridan	1,826	1,537
Belle Fourche	2,154	3,344
Shadehill	589	605

98% BOAT PLUG COMPLIANCE OVERALL STATEWIDE IN 2023.

ENFORCEMENT INCREASES COMPLIANCE

Issuance of warnings and citations for violations of AIS statutes and administrative rules helps increase compliance with boat plug, vegetation, fish and bait transport rules. Total in 2023, 147 warnings and 136 citations were issued.

147
WARNINGS

136
CITATIONS

18,642
WATERCRAFTS
INSPECTED IN
2023

98%
STATEWIDE BOAT
PLUG COMPLIANCE
IN 2023

13
INSPECTION STATIONS ARE SET UP ON
ANY GIVEN WEEK THROUGHOUT THE
SUMMER.

STATE AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

- » Game, Fish and Park - completed their third year of invasive carp monitoring using USFWS funds. Efforts have focused on monitoring Silver Carp movements in the lower James River, identifying natal origins through otolith microchemistry, and assessing various invasion risks to new waters. Partnerships with two state universities made this work possible.
- » Transportation - use of DOT field locations for watercraft inspections and include a provision in construction contracts stating contractors must obey AIS regulations. Also helped install "Zebra Mussel Infested Water" signs.
- » Public Safety - use of motor vehicle carrier weigh station locations for watercraft inspections.
- » Agriculture and Natural Resources - distribution of information to irrigators, municipalities, and businesses with surface water withdrawals.
- » Revenue - distribution of rack cards on "**Clean, Drain, Dry**" to county treasurers for inclusion in registration renewal mailings.

FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

- » Bureau of Reclamation - Coordination with prevention efforts and mussel veliger sampling at BOR reservoirs.
- » US Corp of Engineers - Allowed signage at their public boat ramps.
- » US Forest Service - Use of USFS boat ramps for watercraft inspection locations, storage of equipment, as well as placement of education signage at water access points.

NGO PARTNERSHIPS

- » The Invasive Species Action Network - Received "Don't Let It Loose" signage for urban fisheries and purchased "Don't Let It Loose" pet store bags.
- » Glacial Lakes and Prairies Tourism Association - Placed rack cards at Bramble Park Zoo in Watertown for more public outreach.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- » Reinforce key messages of "**Clean, Drain, Dry**", leave boat plugs out except when launching, loading, and on the water, do not move water when transporting bait and fish, and be aware of current AIS infestations.
 - Tools include organic and paid social media messages, YouTube videos, gas station TV, targeted emails, news releases, rack cards, digital advertisements, lake association meetings, AIS training for volunteer inspectors, SDleastwanted.sd.gov website, Citizen Monitoring Program, and enhanced AIS signage and decontamination equipment at boat ramps. GFP also implemented AIS education into classes taught at the Outdoor Campus locations in Sioux Falls and Rapid City. Overall, AIS was discussed in 96 classes between these two locations.
 - Staff reached out to 32 lake associations for partnership.
 - Rapid Response Plan was implemented for new mussel infested waters.

2.4 MILLION+
EMAILS SENT WITH
AIS CONTENT

30+
LAKE
ASSOCIATIONS
CONTACTED

43
GAS STATIONS
RUNNING ADS

12
LAKE ASSOCIA-
TIONS WORKED
WITH GFP

340,000+
INDIVIDUALS REACHED ON SOCIAL
MEDIA

INFORMATION CURRENT THROUGH CALENDAR YEAR 2023.



AIS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TIMELINE

