

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | May 6, 2025

State Agencies Encourage Best-Practice Procedures for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

The North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR), in collaboration with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD), encourages residents and tourists to help monitor, control, and prevent the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) and help preserve the state's beloved waters. Water-based activities are enjoyed by many during both the warm and cold weather months throughout North Dakota, so year-round vigilance remains important.

Over the past decade, North Dakota has seen a dramatic rise in ANS. Many nuisance species are not native to our ecosystems and introducing them causes environmental affects, economic impacts, and public health concerns. ANS can cause harm to established habitats, endanger recreational fisheries, destroy infrastructure, and negatively impact communities that rely on lakes and rivers for their water supplies.

"The Department of Water Resources' vision is to sustainably manage and develop North Dakota's water resources for the health, safety, and prosperity of its people, businesses, agriculture, energy, industry, recreation, and natural resources.," said Reice Haase, DWR Director. "It is imperative to advocate and support this vision and generate community empowerment in the control of nuisance species and aid in preventing further spread."

If precautions are taken and individuals demonstrate compliance, the spread can be controlled. By following NDGFD guidance, we can help safeguard a reliable water supply, entrust our communities to take action, and limit the harsh repercussions of invasive species.

The public should incorporate best practice recommendations concerning watercraft cleaning guidance including: **Clean, Drain, and Dry** all equipment, every time you use it. Clean and remove all plants or animals from your watercraft or equipment prior to leaving any recreational area you are using. Drain and remove water from all equipment prior to exiting designated access points. Not draining water can be extremely hazardous and may cause negligent transportation of ANS to various locations. Afterwards, verify that all equipment is completely dry before utilizing it again.

The Department of Water Resources, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, and Governor Armstrong acknowledge May 4 – May 10, 2025, as Aquatic Nuisance Species Awareness Week. We encourage the public to please help monitor, control, and prevent the spread of nuisance species in North Dakota.

For more information, please visit <https://gf.nd.gov/ans>.

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