



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

2022 OVERVIEW

So far, inspections for aquatic invasive species (AIS) have increased in 2022 compared to 2021. The increased inspections is in part thanks to partnerships with western South Dakota Conservation Districts, Enemy Swim Preservation Association, and refocusing roadside inspections efforts to high pressure roadways. In western South Dakota, funding from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as it is the USFWS that provides the QZAP funding, and West Dakota Water Development District supported the operation of eight inspection stations at six major reservoirs in western South Dakota.

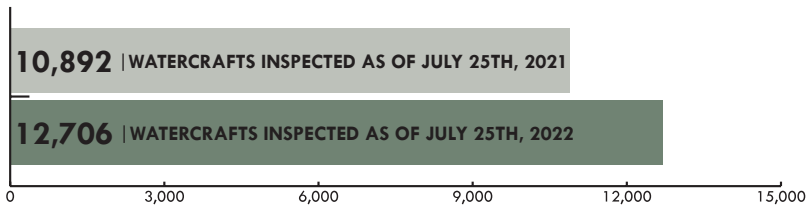
In total, 12 inspections stations have been in operation across South Dakota on any given week during the summer months. GFP was able to hire 47 inspectors plus volunteers. Additionally, GFP law enforcement officers assisted with compliance during inspections.

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 third 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 received digital and/or social media advertisements following up on these messages. GFP built upon 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

2021-2022 WATERCRAFT INSPECTIONS



WATERCRAFT INSPECTION STATIONS

- » Maximize boater engagement to increase adoption of best practices to clean, drain, and dry watercraft between uses. Four roadside stations were operated in central and eastern South Dakota to maximize boater contacts.
- » Operated stations at eight boat launch areas at the six largest western South Dakota reservoirs.
- » The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and USFWS, funded stations at Angostura, Belle Fourche, Deerfield, Sheridan Pactola and Shadehill Reservoirs with the Western Dakota Water Development District also contributing.
- » Enemy Swim Preservation Association (ESPA) funded a station at Enemy Swim Lake in 2021 and continued this effort in 2022. To date, 12,706 watercrafts were inspected in 2022 compared to 10,892 as of July 25, 2021.
- » 47 inspectors were hired between GFP and local County Conservation Districts. Staffing was supplemented with volunteers from the Enemy Swim Preservation Association. GFP added a new position, Western Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Supervisor, in the Black Hills that oversaw the five most western reservoirs (Angostura, Pactola, Sheridan, Deerfield, and Belle Fourche). GFP also advertised for five new positions in northeastern South Dakota based out of Webster but were unsuccessful in filling those positions.

| STATION | 2021 INSPECTIONS AS OF JULY 25, 2021 | 2022 INSPECTIONS AS OF JULY 25, 2022 |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ft. Pierre | 792 | 991 |
| Webster | 716 | 602 |
| Enemy Swim | 1,191 | 844 |
| Sioux Falls | 1,125 | 1,455 |
| Angostura | 2,898 | 3,928 |
| Pactola | 1,062 | 1,740 |
| Deerfield | 75 | 50 |
| Sheridan | 392 | 1,050 |
| Belle Fourche | 1,778 | 1,628 |
| Shadehill | 863 | 418 |

91-99% BOAT PLUG COMPLIANCE AT ALL LOCATIONS IN 2022.

ENFORCEMENT INCREASES COMPLIANCE

Issuance of warnings and citations for violations of AIS statutes and administrative rules helps increase compliance with boat plug, vegetation, and fish and bait transport rules. So far in 2022, approximately 60 warnings and 40 citations were given out.

60
WARNINGS

40
CITATIONS

12,706
WATERCRAFTS
INSPECTED IN
2022

783
WATERCRAFTS HAD
RECENTLY BEEN IN
INFESTED WATERS

12
INSPECTION STATIONS ARE SET UP ON
ANY GIVEN WEEK THROUGHOUT THE
SUMMER.

STATE AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS

- » 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 Forest Service - Use of USFS boat ramps for watercraft inspection locations and storage of equipment as well as placement of education signage at water access point.
- » US Corp of Engineers - Allowed signage at their public boat ramps.

NGO PARTNERSHIPS

- » Wildlife Forever - GFP purchased hats from Wildlife Forever.
- » 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, SDleastwated.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.
 - GFP partnered with DOT to use interstate DOT signs for AIS messaging.
 - GFP also increased signage and wrote an article in the Summer Conservation Digest magazine.
 - Staff reached out to 32 lake associations for partnership.

1,821,391
EMAILS SENT
WITH AIS
CONTENT

9,526
VISITATIONS TO
SDLEASTWANTED.
SD.GOV

43
GAS STATIONS
RUNNING ADS

9
LAKE ASSOCIA-
TIONS WORKED
WITH GFP

334,697
INDIVIDUALS
REACHED ON
SOCIAL MEDIA

11%
INCREASE IN
VIEWS ON AIS ED-
UCATION VIDEOS
ON GFP YOUTUBE

INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF JULY 25, 2022.



AIS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM TIMELINE

