



**AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION & CONTROL**  
**Recommendations (Amendments) to the Governors DNR/Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Budget**

**THE PROBLEM**

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are ruining our lakes and rivers; 35% of Minnesota’s primary recreational lakes have at least one AIS, others are waiting on Minnesota’s doorstep. Not enough is being done to control AIS once in our waters and not enough is being done to prevent them from reaching our waters.

**THE SOLUTION**

The MN DNR and local leaders need more resources focused on effective prevention and control actions.

**DNR’s BUDGET PROPOSAL**

The Governor’s Budget Proposal/DNR Ecoservices Division proposes substantial increased funding for AIS, to be used for expanded enforcement, inspections, and local management grant program. They propose:

- 1) An Increased watercraft license surcharge from \$5 to \$10 on boats under 17 ft and from \$5 to \$15 for other boats (except non-motorized boats).
- 2) Adding a \$2 surcharge to non-resident fishing licenses; and
- 3) Adding a \$5 one time surcharge on utility trailers and towed recreational vehicle licenses (which would be split between management of aquatic invasive and terrestrial invasive species)

**MINNESOTA WATERS’ BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Minnesota Waters supports the DNR’s budget proposal, but does not feel it goes far enough in raising revenues to address the full need of preventing the spread of AIS, including new ones on Minnesota’s doorstep, and managing AIS already in Minnesota’s lakes and rivers.

Minnesota Waters will support the surcharge on non-resident fishing licenses and trailers/towed vehicles, but will submit an amendment to the budget asking for a \$20 surcharge increase (from \$5 to \$25) on all watercraft licenses—paid every three years. This is approximately a \$6.50 /year increase over current surcharge fees to insure the future enjoyment of Minnesota’s waters. Minnesota Waters specifically requests the additional revenues be used for:

- A new grant program for local prevention
- Functional containment of harmful species
- Expansion of the local control grant program
- New rapid response and treatment program

This will raise approximately \$2.4 million more per year than the DNR’s Budget Proposal.

**Totally, a \$20 surcharge increase, \$2 out-of -state fishing license fee, and one-time trailer surcharge will raise \$4.75 million additional revenues per year to address aquatic invasive species in Minnesota.**

**SUMMARY**

Increased Funding for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)—Estimate

	<b>Watercraft license surcharge Boats &lt;17 ft (excludes non-motorized)</b>	<b>Watercraft license surcharge Boats &gt;17 feet (excludes non-motorized)</b>	<b>Out of State Fishing License Surcharge</b>	<b>One time surcharge on utility trailer/towed RV vehicles (50% for AIS)</b>	<b>Annual DNR Budget for Aquatic Invasive Species</b>
<b>Current</b>	\$5	\$5	0	0	\$1.3 million
<b>DNR FY08/FY09 Budget Proposal</b>	\$10	\$15	\$2	\$5	\$3.7 million
<b>Minnesota Waters Amendment</b>	\$25	\$25	\$2	\$5	\$6.1 million

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