



Purpose

Stearns County FiveStar lake service providers (LSPs) commit to implement the following aquatic invasive species (AIS) safeguards. Participation is voluntary. There is no fee to participate. In return for agreeing to implement the safeguards, Stearns County and partnering lake associations will promote FiveStar LSPs through various mediums such as website, media accounts, mailings and events.

Definitions

Water-related equipment. For the purposes of this agreement, water-related equipment is defined as: watercraft, trailers, docks, lifts, swim-rafts, anchors, chains, ropes, ladders, buoys, waders, life preservers, paddler boards, water skis, wakeboards, inner-tubes, portable bait containers or any similar water-related equipment, implement or gear put into or taken out of waterbodies.

Service Provider: an individual who or entity that:

- (1) Decontaminates, installs, or removes water-related equipment or structures into or from waters of the state for hire or as a service provided as a benefit of membership in a yacht club, boat club, marina, or similar organization; or
- (2) Rents or leases water-related equipment that will be used in, placed into, or removed from waters of the state.

Safeguards

1. MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lake Service Provider Permit

My business and its employees working with water-related equipment maintain DNR permitted lake service provider status. See: [DNR - Lake Service Providers Permit and Certification](#).

2. DNR List of Infested Waters

My business monitors closely the official DNR list of infested waterbodies so we are always up to date on which waters are known to contain aquatic invasive species. See: [DNR - Infested Waters List](#).

3. Grouping Service Visits; Working in Non-DNR Listed Infested Waters First

My business agrees that to the extent practicable we will group service visits for properties on the same waterbody to the same day to minimize the risk of accidental spread of AIS via our visits.

My business also agrees that to the extent practicable we will work first in waters not on the DNR infested waters list, prior to moving to waters on the DNR infested waters list.

4. Business's Equipment

My business agrees that before we use any of our water-related equipment in a waterbody different than the one said equipment was last used in, we will both inspect and either mechanically or thermally decontaminate our equipment as described below.

Inspection

Conduct visual and tactile inspection of all equipment. Remove all visible material (ex. plants, mud, snails, residual water) from all equipment used. Hands, brushes, towels, grabbers, pressure washers, etc. can be used.

- Detailed best practices can be found in Stearns County's Inspection and Cleaning Guidelines: [Stearns County - Aquatic Invasive Species](#).
- Inspection can be performed for free by Level 1 Watercraft Inspectors. Contact the Stearns County AIS Program at 320-656-3613 during normal business hours to determine the location of said inspectors during the boating season.

Decontamination – Mechanical

This form of decontamination will be used for all equipment unless thermal decontamination or its alternatives (listed below) are utilized. After inspection (described above):

- Step 1: Conduct a thorough fresh-water rinse. Pressure washers and/or car washes can be used for this step if they adequately rinse the equipment. Be sure to rinse engines, live wells and ballast tanks/bags as applicable.
- Step 2: Allow water to drain off equipment. If needed, towel out residual water. Maximize air dry time to the extent practical.

Decontamination – Thermal

This form of decontamination is recommended for equipment that holds residual water that cannot be drained or towed-out. Examples include: docks, lifts, rafts, barges, some trailers, watercraft engines. After inspection (described above):

- Step 1: Perform a thorough hot water rinse of all equipment. The equipment generating said rinse must maintain the desired water temperature (120° F for ballast and live well pumps, and 140° F for external parts) at the equipment point of contact for the entire length of time. Contact time at 120° F is 2 minutes; 140° F is 10 seconds.
 - A thermometer must be used to ensure said temperature is maintained. Temperatures higher than 140° F can damage engine, and temperatures higher than 120° F can damage internal pumps.
 - Engines, live wells, ballast tanks/bags must be included in the rinse if applicable.
 - It is recommended the operator be a Level 2 Watercraft Inspector. These individuals have been trained on how to operate thermal decontamination units. A live map of Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors operating decontamination units can be found here: [Courtesy Decontamination](#).
- Step 2: Allow water to drain off equipment. If needed, towel out any reachable residual water. Maximize air dry time to the extent practical.

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Alternative to Thermal Decontamination

If your business cannot secure access to equipment/ staff able to perform thermal decontamination, utilizing alternatives is recommended. A listing of such alternatives can be found on page six of the MN Pollution Control Agency's "Standard Operating Procedures: Water Quality Monitoring in Aquatic Invasive Species Infested Locations," found here: [Water Monitoring: Standard Operating Procedures](#).

5. Movement of Customer's Equipment; Sale of Used Equipment

My business agrees to certify that any docks, lifts, rafts or associated equipment we are hired to move from one waterbody to a different waterbody, or any used equipment we offer for sale, has been out of water and dried out for at least 21 days. **This is Minnesota Law.** See: [DNR - Minnesota Invasive Species Laws](#), under "Transportation prohibitions." My business will also complete an inspection and mechanical or thermal decontamination as described in #4 above before moving to a different waterbody or before completing a sale.

- This provision does not apply if my business is moving water-related equipment from one area of a waterbody to another on said waterbody without transport on public roadways.

6. Rental Equipment

My business agrees that any water-related equipment we offer for rent will be inspected and either undergo mechanical or thermal decontamination as described in #4 above before being rented again.

- This provision does not apply if my business owns shoreline property and only rents equipment for use on the same waterbody.

7. Watercraft/Engines Servicing

My business agrees to complete an inspection and mechanical or thermal decontamination as described in #4 above before bringing any watercraft and/or engines to a waterbody for testing/runs/drives (by my business or my customer).

- It is recommended said decontamination steps are also performed before transferring equipment to customer.

8. Promoting AIS safeguards with others

My business agrees to promote to its customers:

- The inspection and decontamination information in this agreement.
- Minnesota's 21-day dry law for docks, lifts, rafts and associated equipment.

9. Visits by Stearns County AIS Program

My business agrees that the Stearns County AIS Program may from time-to-time visit my place of business in order to: 1) listen to my business's AIS concerns, issues and recommendations, 2) review my business's AIS-related operations to identify, learn and disseminate AIS prevention best practices. Such visits will be scheduled in advance and are meant to be collegial.

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Agreement

By signing below, I commit that my business will implement the above safeguards. I also acknowledge this commitment will be publicly available and actively shared as part of marketing and promotion by Stearns County and participating lake associations.

Name of Business (Print)

Authorized Representative (Print)

Phone Number (Print)

Email Address (Print)

Mailing Address (Print)

Authorized Representative's Signature

Date

Complete and return this form to Stearns County AIS Program at cole.loewen@co.stearns.mn.us, or hardcopy via US Mail to

Stearns County Environmental Services
C/O Cole Loewen
Service Center
3301 Co Rd 138
Waite Park, MN 56387

Questions? Call 320-656-3613

Disclaimer: Property owners are responsible to determine whether the lake service provider has the skills and capabilities necessary to deliver the product or service the property owner wishes to purchase. Stearns County is not a party to these transactions and makes no warranty for the listed provider's services. Stearns County is simply listing lake service providers that signed an agreement describing and promising to employ AIS safeguards, as well as lake associations that signed an agreement describing and promising to promote said lake service providers.