

To: Minnesota Lake Leaders
North American Lake Management Society - Trip Report
November 19, 2007

I recently had an opportunity to exhibit a launch monitoring solution at the North American Lake Management Society in Orlando where over 500 lake managers from across the continent were in attendance. Over the course of 3 days numerous sessions on best practices for managing lakes were conducted. Clearly, the science of lake management up to this point has focused on control of invasive species **after** they have infested a lake. This includes analysis of the issue (vegetation surveys, lake management plans) and treatment protocol (herbicides, harvesting, or biological control). Unfortunately for lake residents, the burden of these costs in most cases fall on property owners with limited government funding available. This management path **will cost tens of thousands annually** with eradication of invasives rarely achieved.

Because we were demonstrating a preventative solution that had never been seen before, there was great interest during the entire conference. For the first time lake managers were given a choice to prevent infestation with education, monitoring, and enforcement. More information is available at [ESP Home](#)

Specific stories of AIS impact:

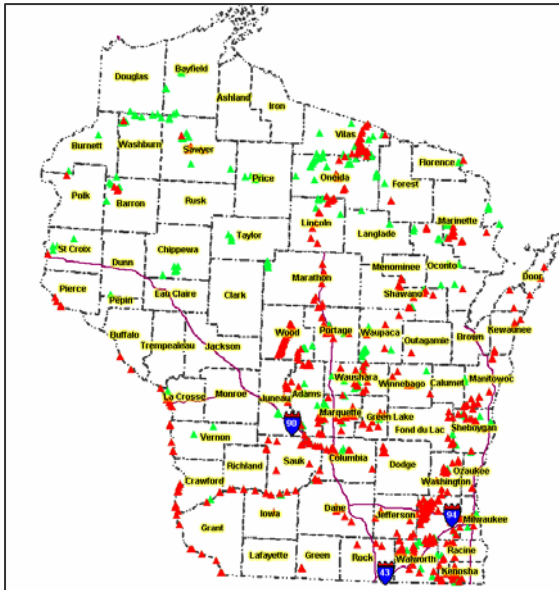
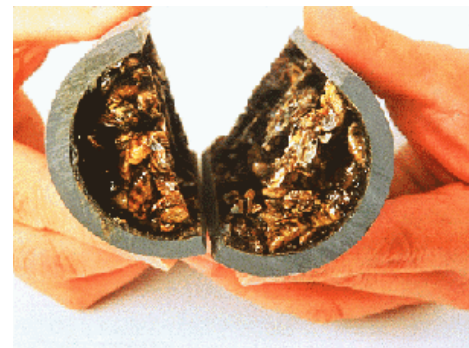


The southern states have had to deal with Hydrilla for longer than other parts of the country. In particular, Florida's lakes with year round growing seasons, have a multitude of AIS species that they are dealing with. Of 455 water bodies in Florida that have public accesses, **390 are infested with Hydrilla. Over 25 million** annually is spent on herbicides (Floridone) in an ongoing effort to attempt to keep this invasive from completely taking over these lakes. Unfortunately, *a hybrid version of Hydrilla has emerged that is resistant to Floridone treatments*. An eye-opening presentation from the Department of Environmental Protection is available at [Dept. of Environmental Protection \(DEP\) State Lands: Florida Aquatic Plant Management - Hydrilla](#)

-Lake Manitou in north central Indiana is one of the first midwest lakes to become infested with Hydrilla, which is an invasive that has been characterized as several times worse than Eurasian watermilfoil. The potential for spread of this weed in Indiana prompted the closure of the boat launch for much of the season and a \$1.5Million dollar treatment protocol. Of course if this weed can make it to Indiana from several states away on a boat trailer, few lakes are immune from the risk of infestation from Hydrilla or other AIS. In fact, Iowa and Wisconsin both now have lakes with Hydrilla. http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/LAKE_MANITOU_HYDRILLA_FAQ.pdf

-Lake Mead became infested with Quagga mussels which have found their way into the greater Los Angeles water distribution system. The water districts are facing millions of dollars of management costs to prevent these rapidly growing intruders from impacting delivery of water in the extensive distribution system.

[Quagga mussels in Lake Mead spur high alert](#)



-In Minnesota and Wisconsin, despite laws prohibiting launching of boats with weeds, invasive species continue to spread. In Minnesota, there are now 55 boat launches that lead to Zebra mussel infested waters. Zebra mussels have now made it into the Ramsey County (St. Paul) drinking water system comprised of Lake Vadnais, Sucker, and Pleasant Lakes. Over 200 Minnesota Lakes now have Eurasian watermilfoil. Over 455 Wisconsin lakes have Eurasian watermilfoil and 100 have Zebra mussels.

[Zebra mussels found in St. Paul drinking water system](#)

An article describing the effectiveness of automated monitoring on Lake Minnetonka was published in NALMS quarterly magazine and is available at [Nalms Reports and Articles](#) Key findings show the number of boats launching weeds dropped from 7.4% to .3% in one season. Similar results are being seen in

Wisconsin. Given the reach of boaters that has been seen, there is no lake immune to the risk of infestation. Clearly, monitoring boats at the launch for AIS is the only way to prevent lakes from impact, and **prevention is the only sane solution.**

Best Regards,

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