

North Dakota's Aquatic Nuisance Species Program

North Dakota Game and Fish Department



Highlights from 2017

- ❖ No new ANS detected or established
- ❖ Expanded program efforts
 - High priority sampling – 125 samples
 - Vegetation sampling – 13 waters
 - Marinas – 21 visited
 - Pet stores – 12 supplied
 - Weed harvesters – permitting
 - Increased tournament involvement
 - Bait vendors – no ANS issues



2018 planned efforts

- ❖ Clean, Drain, Dry
 - New outreach slogan
 - Consistent nationally
 - Update outreach materials
- ❖ Program needs
 - Assess gaps and needs
 - Update operational plan (AISC)
- ❖ High-risk sampling
 - Continue for 2 more years; re-evaluate
- ❖ Statewide trainings

North Dakota is Home to some of the Nation's Best Fishing



CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) can permanently change fisheries with unpredictable consequences. Don't take chances with great fishing. Prevent the spread of ANS.



Asks for increased action

- ❖ Increased educational efforts
 - Flood markets
 - Niche marketing
 - Target non-consumptive users
 - Increased social media presence
- ❖ Watercraft inspections
 - New legislation would be required
 - New funding mechanism would be required
 - Increase LE staff
 - Additional ANS staff (≥ 1 FTE and numerous seasonals)



ND program overview

- ❖ 1 FTE
- ❖ 4 seasonal positions (grant)
- ❖ ~ \$320,000 budget in 2017
 - ~\$185,000 state sources (fisheries)
 - ~\$135,000 federal sources
 - ~\$135,000 goes out in grants



Comparisons

- ❖ MT – \$7M program
 - ANS Bureau establishment (12 FTEs)
 - 32 watercraft inspection stations
 - ZM lab capabilities
- ❖ MN – >\$10M program
 - 33 FTEs for MN DNR
 - Total of ~1,000 inspectors statewide (200 DNR)
 - Utilize 400 gal. decon units (\$27K/each)
- ❖ SD – program budget varies
 - 1.75 FTEs
 - Containment decons
 - 8 seasonals across state



Takeaways

- ❖ ND program is comprehensive for resources
 - Regulations reduce risk
 - Educational efforts are broad and targeted
 - Sample uninfested waters
 - Monitor existing populations
 - Expanding and improving program
- ❖ Major changes needed to substantially increase ANS program
 - Legislative changes
 - Stable, self-sufficient funding source
 - Ability to hire FTEs

