



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Watercraft Inspection Program and Decontamination Stations

Crow Wing County's 2025 watercraft inspection program officially launches Saturday, May 10th—just in time for the Governor's Fishing Opener in beautiful Crosslake. Decontamination stations will also be up and running, helping boaters protect our lakes while enjoying the start of the season.

"We are proud to be home to some of Minnesota's premier fishing and boating destinations," said Jessica Shea, Operations Manager. "As stewards of these incredible natural resources, we urge everyone to do their part by cleaning their watercraft after leaving any body of water. With the launch of our 2025 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plan, we're coordinating a comprehensive and proactive inspection program designed to protect our waters for generations to come."

Two mobile decontamination units will be located at different public accesses throughout the county. They will be open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday. To get the locations of decontamination stations call (218) 824-1055 or text CWCDECON to 1-833-258-7509.

Watercraft decontamination consists of a very hot water rinse used to kill zebra mussels and if needed a high-pressure spray to remove material from boats, motors, trailers, and personal gear. No soaps, bleaches, or chemicals are used during the process. The station is operated by DNR-trained and certified inspectors who ensure the process effectively and safely removes or kills AIS.

"The decontamination stations provide a useful service to boaters," stated Jessica Shea, "The entire process takes a short time and is a valuable tool for limiting the spread of AIS in our lakes and rivers". Information about Crow Wing County AIS prevention efforts can be found at www.crowwing.gov/AIS

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services office at (218) 824-1010 or landservices@crowwing.gov to discuss AIS or other land use related activities.

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.