AIS Detectors and Trackers: WANTED!

The new AIS Detectors and Trackers programs are being offered jointly through University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Together, these programs will train a statewide network of citizen scientists to identify, report, and track aquatic invaders in our lakes and rivers.

Become an AIS Detector

The AIS Detectors program will train you to identify aquatic invasive species including the plants, fish, and invertebrates currently found in Minnesota, as well as lookalike species that are noninvasive.

Once trained, you will:

- Be able to make credible AIS reports, allowing Minnesota DNR staff to focus on verification and response to AIS threats
- Be a part of a statewide AIS Detector network with support from University of Minnesota Extension and MAISRC
- Be eligible for ongoing continued education opportunities, including advanced trainings such as lake surveys

The training will include online learning sessions which you take at your own convenience, followed by classroom and field sessions which will focus on hands-on AIS identification. It will be regionally tailored so you are focused on the highest-risk threats for your area, but will also cover statewide AIS issues to facilitate communication among participants and detection of emerging threats.

Learn more at www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION
in partnership with the
MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

Become an AIS Tracker

The AIS Trackers program will train you to monitor changes in populations of AIS over time in specific locations (e.g., a lake or river reach), generating data useful for management, such as assessing treatment options and evaluating responses to control efforts.

Once trained, AIS Trackers will input data into an interactive AIS database, which will be accessible to MAISRC researchers and AIS managers at the Minnesota DNR, enabling greater capacity for surveillance, monitoring, response, and management.

Participants who successfully complete the program will be able to:

- Implement field survey protocols to collect AIS abundance data
- Work with online databases – entering data, performing quality control checks, and viewing results
- Help improve sampling methods for more reliably estimating abundance changes for particular AIS
- Assist MAISRC scientists with evaluating AIS trends over space and time
- Contribute to evaluating different AIS control strategies and understanding the factors that influence effectiveness

Is it right for me?

The programs are open to:
- Professionals such as AIS managers
- Citizen scientists
- Lake association members
- County AIS task forces members
- Master Naturalists
- Other motivated citizens

Online, classroom, and field curricula will be developed to support these learning objectives. Learn more at www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-trackers.

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