



South Dakota Zebra and Quagga Mussel Rapid Response Plan



Upon confirmation of a new water being infested with zebra or quagga mussels, the below response plan will be implemented.

Immediately upon confirmation of a new infestation, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Rapid Response Team members will notify the GFP Cabinet Secretary and Wildlife Division Director, the South Dakota Governor's Office, GFP Commissioners, other GFP staff, and other affected governmental agencies of the infestation.

Rapid Response Team members may include:

- **Game, Fish and Parks** – the AIS Coordinator, Fisheries Management Program Administrator, Aquatic Section Chief, Area Fisheries Supervisor, Regional Conservation Officer Supervisor, and the Communications Director
- **Other Governmental Entities** – other – state, federal, tribal, and municipal agency representatives who may have regulatory authority or the ability to contribute to response efforts

The AIS Coordinator and Program Administrator will assemble the response team for a specific water.

Immediate Response

1. The GFP Communications Director will coordinate dissemination of information on the new infestation to include:
 - Press releases regarding the new infestation will be developed in collaboration with other management authorities and shared with media contacts within 24 hours of confirmation of the infestation.
 - Targeted emails being shared with anglers/boaters and/or park users.
 - Social media post regarding new infestation on GFP social media platforms.
 - Addition of the infested waterbody to AIS map and Public Fishing Access map.
 - Addition of the infested waterbody to SDLeastWanted.sd.gov.
 - Addition of the infested waterbody to geofencing efforts of the AIS marketing campaign.

2. GFP Aquatics Section Staff will organize a meeting of the Rapid Response Team to determine immediate actions to take in response to the infestation, with additional meetings scheduled, as needed.
 - Immediate actions will include:
 - Coordinate with other entities with management authority for the infested water and distribute a joint press release within 1 day of confirmation of the infestation.
 - Place high-profile signs, 18" x 24", on GFP access areas where no other approval is required within 2 days. Placement on water bodies outside GFP authority may take longer until approval is received from the managing agency or entity.
 - Position the large (4' x 8') notification signs at high profile locations at the water body entrances within 5 days. DOT assists with placement of these signs using their equipment and trucks.
 - Determining the best locations for actively engaging boaters using the infested water and sharing information on decontamination requirements and how to Clean, Drain, and Dry equipment.
 - Identifying groups of people and entities that will be potentially affected by the infestation, including marina operators and slip holders, water service providers (weed harvesters, boat dock and lift businesses), lake association members, municipalities, irrigators, and sportsman and conservation groups.
 - Sharing information on decontamination requirements and mitigation techniques with all publics.

Continued Response

3. After the conclusion of the initial boating season of infestation, Rapid Response Team members will meet to develop an action plan for slowing the spread of zebra mussels to other waters.
 - Actions will include:
 - Working with marinas, slip holders, and lakeshore property owners to reduce colonization of mussels on watercraft and related equipment.
 - Identifying parties interested in providing decontaminations for watercraft, and boat docks and lifts, instructing them in proper decontamination procedures, and sharing the availability of services with affected parties.
 - Working with other managing government entities on future coordinated AIS efforts.