

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | May 5, 2026

## **State Agencies Encourage Continued Vigilance to Prevent Aquatic Nuisance Species**

**BISMARCK, N.D.** – The North Dakota Department of Water Resources (DWR), in partnership with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD), is encouraging residents and visitors to remain vigilant in preventing the spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) and protecting the state’s water resources.

Water-based recreation is a year-round part of life in North Dakota, making it important for individuals to take simple steps to help stop the spread of invasive species. Over the past decade, ANS have continued to pose challenges across the state, threatening ecosystems, infrastructure, and water supplies that communities depend on.

Aquatic nuisance species are non-native organisms that can disrupt natural habitats, impact recreational opportunities, damage equipment and infrastructure, and create long-term environmental and economic consequences. Preventing their spread is critical to maintaining healthy lakes, rivers, and water systems across North Dakota.

“Protecting North Dakota’s water resources is a shared responsibility,” said Director Reice Haase. “By taking a few simple precautions, individuals can play an important role in preventing the spread of aquatic nuisance species and preserving our waters for current and future generations.”

The public is encouraged to follow these best practices every time they are on the water:

- Clean: Remove all plants, animals, and debris from watercraft and equipment
- Drain: Drain all water from boats, motors, and equipment before leaving an access point
- Dry: Allow all equipment to dry completely before using it again

Following these steps helps reduce the risk of transporting invasive species between waterbodies.

DWR and NDGFD recognize Aquatic Nuisance Species Awareness Week, May 3 –May 9, 2026, and encourage all North Dakotans to take an active role in protecting the state’s waters through awareness and responsible recreation.

For more information, visit [www.gf.nd.gov/ans](http://www.gf.nd.gov/ans).

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