

# Michigan's Multi-Agency Invasive Species Decontamination Policy



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Aquatic Invasive Species Program



Invasive Species Program  
Steering Committee

Aquatic  
Invasive Species  
Core Team

Terrestrial  
Invasive Species  
Core Team

# AIS Core Team

Est. 2010

- **Department of Environmental Quality**

- Water Resources
- Office of the Great Lakes



- **Department of Natural Resources**

- Fisheries
- Wildlife
- Parks and Recreation
- Law Enforcement
- Forest Resources
- Marketing and Outreach



- **Department of Agriculture and Rural Development**

- Pesticide and Plant Pest Management
- Animal Industry



- **Department of Transportation\***



# State Management Plan

## Goals

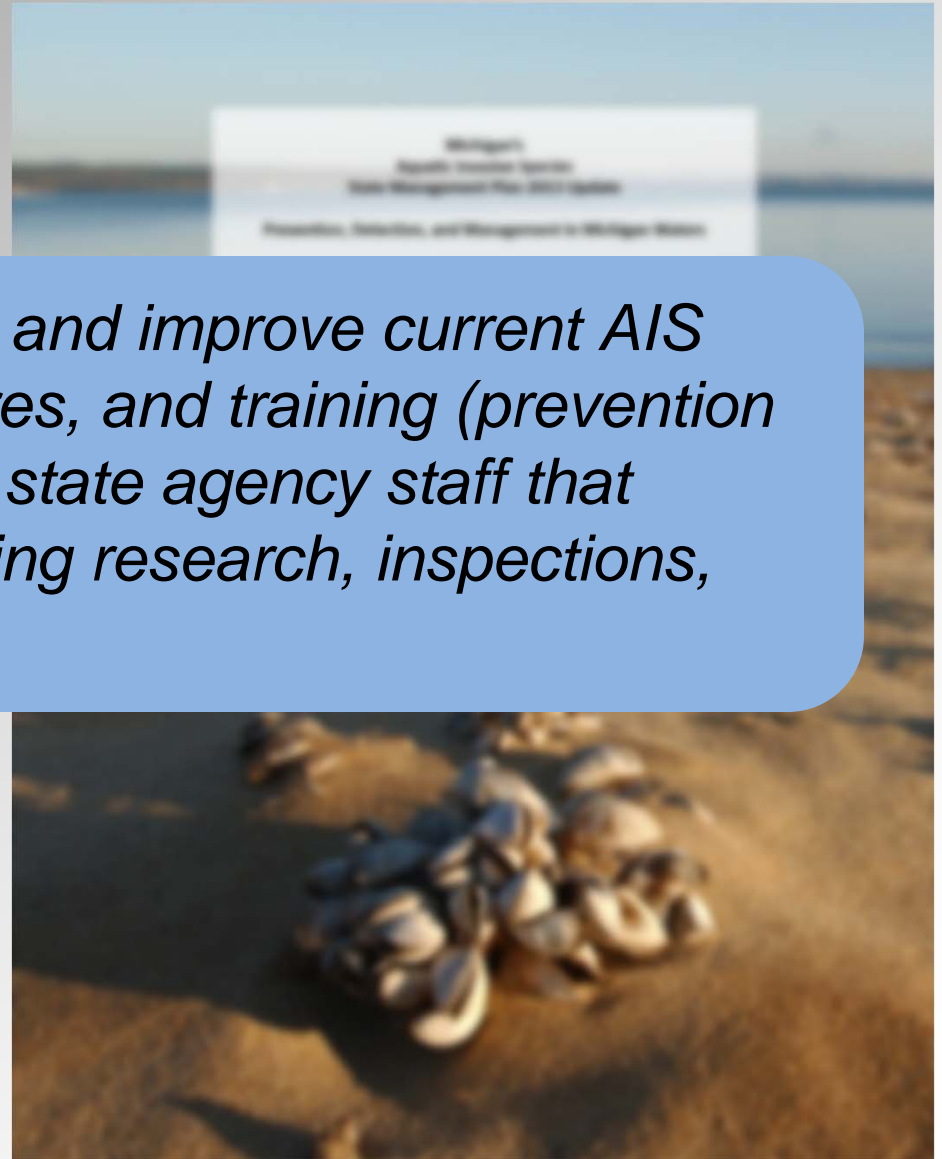
1. Prevent new introductions
2. Limit the dispersal of established species
3. Develop early detection and response program
4. Manage and control to lessen harmful impacts





# Strategic Action

*“V.A.1. Evaluate, coordinate, and improve current AIS prevention policies, procedures, and training (prevention and species identification) of state agency staff that conduct field activities including research, inspections, and site surveys”*



# The Policy

- All 3 Departments
- Effective: December, 2014
- Policy: 5 pages
- Guidance Document: 20 pages
- Second QOL-wide policy

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/qol-wrd-policy-invasive-species-decontamination\\_476846\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/deq/qol-wrd-policy-invasive-species-decontamination_476846_7.pdf)



# The Policy

*“... will aim to perform basic decontamination steps for field equipment in order to minimize the risk of invasive species transfer between work locations.*

*Each division/office within each QOL department will develop decontamination steps that are practical and reasonable to perform by field staff to accomplish the goal of limiting the spread of invasive species.”*





# Challenges

- Wide range of work
- Implementation
- Tools to succeed



# Low Risk

## Examples

- No known IS
- No contact
- One site/week

## Action

- Inspect and Clean
- Drain, Rinse, and Dry



*Credit: Huron River Watershed Council*



# Higher Risk

## Examples

- >1 site/day
- Both invaded and non-invaded sites
- Contact with invasive species
- T&E communities
- Virulent invasive species present



## Action

- Bleach solution
- Heated pressure wash
- Boat motor flush
- Dry for  $\geq 5$  days







# Reduce Risk

- **Visit non-infested sites first**
- **Work from headwaters down stream**
- **Avoid contact with invasive species**
- **Dedicated gear**



# Implementation

## Raise awareness of...

- Invasive species
- Decontamination
- The policy

## Message

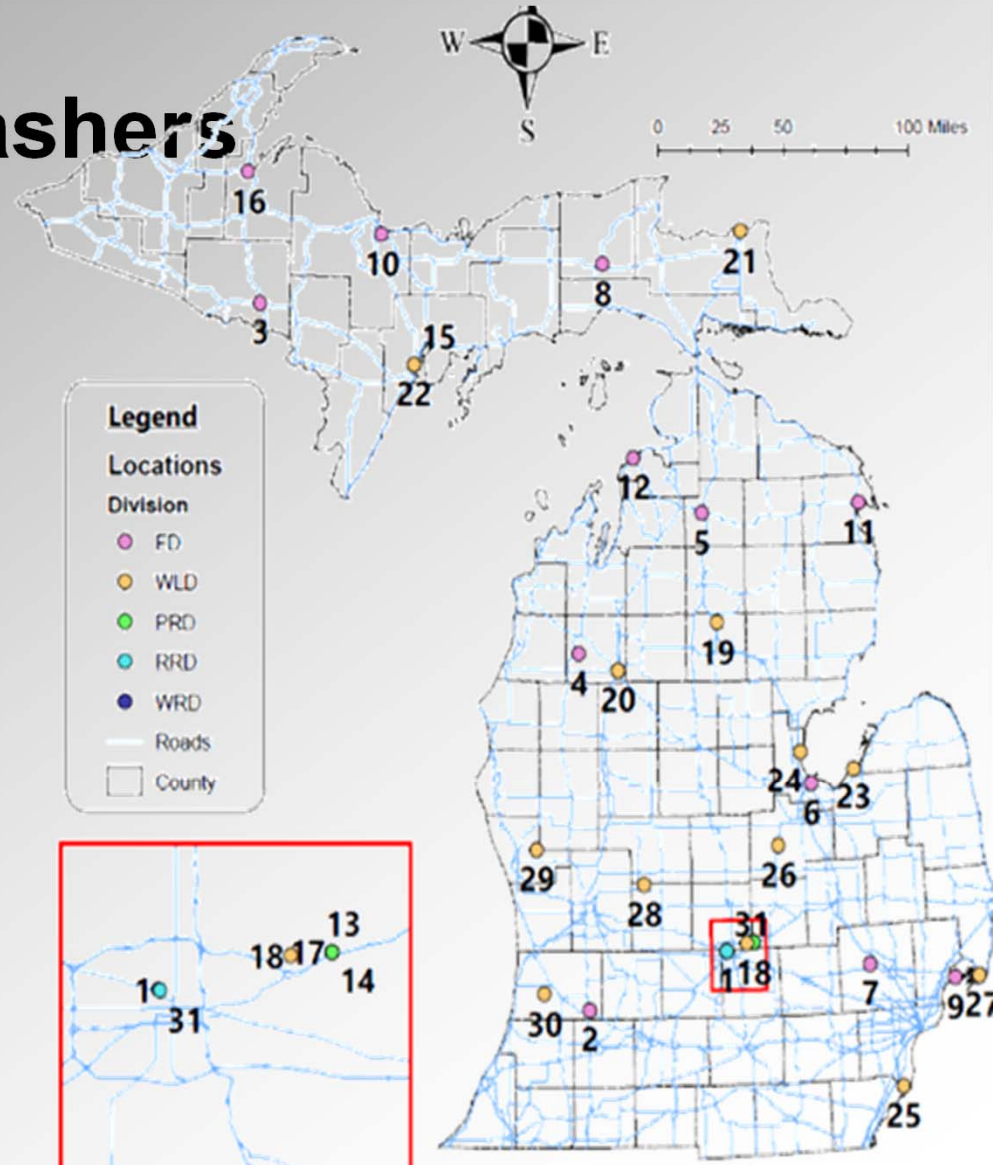
- Don't be a vector
- ID is optional
- Not difficult



# Tools to Succeed

## Heated Pressure Washers

### ~\$300,000





# Tools to Succeed

## DEQ Water Resources Division

- Decon kits (\$3,000 for 150 kits)
- Other materials (\$5,500)



# Guidance Document

## More than just a policy

- Grant and contract language
- Outreach/education tool

INVASIVE SPECIES DECONTAMINATION FOR FIELD OPERATIONS IN MICHIGAN

A GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR THE  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY,  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
AND  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NOVEMBER 2014

*The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) will aim to perform basic decontamination steps for field equipment in order to minimize the risk of invasive species transfer between work locations. Each division/office in each department will develop decontamination steps that are practical and reasonable to perform by field staff to accomplish the goal of limiting the spread of invasive species.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

*Preventing new introductions and limiting the dispersal of established invasive species is the most cost-effective approach to management. The purpose of this document is to assist employees of the MDEQ, MDNR, and MDARD in minimizing the risk of transferring invasive species while performing job activities in the field.*

*While this is a Quality of Life (QOL) guidance document, this can be used by other departments*



Thank you!

MDEQ Aquatic Invasive Species Program

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[Michigan.gov/invasives](http://Michigan.gov/invasives)