

Integrated Aquatic Plant Management – Draft Rule

Key Change 2

Incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) into the program

What is IPM?

Integrated pest management is a decision-making strategy. IPM uses information about the pest species, how that species interacts with the other species in the area and with the broader ecosystem. Integrated Pest Management focuses on long-term control and considers all the available tools in the toolbox to determine the most effective control strategy for a given water that also has the least impact on non-target species and water quality. Target species can adapt to and resist a repeated technique rendering it less effective each time its used. A mix of strategies does not allow the target to adapt and ultimately is more vulnerable to control.

How can IPM help with aquatic plant management?

Integrated Pest Management is recognized as the most effective approach to managing aquatic plant problems. It is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to water resource management. IPM makes use of all the available tools and includes continuous monitoring and evaluation to compare goals to outcomes of aquatic plant control to inform the next round of management.

People who live on waters which have had aquatic invasive species (AIS) for decades know, AIS management is a long-term commitment. IPM is the best way to achieve goals for long-term problem control in an environmentally-sound way.

How is IPM incorporated into the draft rule?

The DNR designed the planning process around Integrated Pest Management decision-making modules. Every five years, for most aquatic plant management projects in Wisconsin, resource managers and leaders will update a plan for their waterbody. The plan will outline clear goals and objectives, name situations where control is needed, list what types of control may be used in different circumstances and evaluate control results for the waterbody.

When will I need an IPM Plan?

You Will Need a Plan
If you are conducting large scale management
If you are managing aquatic invasive species populations
If you are controlling aquatic plants for navigation beyond the riparian access zone

You Won't Need a Plan
If you are controlling a pioneering population of a NR 40 Prohibited Species
If you are creating a riparian access lane to open water.
If you are operating under a DNR made Best Management Practice for your lake.

What If My Lake Has a Surface Water Planning Grant?
If you are working under a surface water planning grant, then you should follow the guidance and requirements of the grant program. The finished planning project, following SWG guidance and requirements, will be considered a "complete" plan under the APM Program and will allow you to get a permit.

What's all in a plan?

1. A physical, chemical, and biological description of the body of water including the aquatic plant community.
2. A description of historical control activities.
3. A description of the target species' life cycle and habitat preferences.
4. A description of the documented impairments to beneficial water uses and ecological effects of the target species.
5. A description of aquatic plant management goals and objectives.
6. An evaluation of the chemical, mechanical, biological and physical aquatic plant control methods available.
7. Recommendations for an integrated aquatic plant management strategy utilizing some or all of the methods evaluated in 6.
8. A strategy for evaluating the efficacy and environmental impacts of the aquatic plant management activities.
9. An education and information strategy for all stakeholders.
10. A description of how stakeholders and local governmental entities were involved in the development of the plan, including local units of government, qualified lake organizations, qualified river management organizations, and waterbody users.

How will the planning process work?

Step 1 – Let your biologist know you intend to write a plan

- Do this 30 days before you get working
- Biologists may request a meeting to check in.

Step 2 – Draft your plan following the planning templates created by the DNR

- Collect plant data, water quality data and basic habitat data
- Outline clear goals and objectives for your APM activities
- Name situations when control is needed
- List what types of control may be used in different situations
- Outline a plan of action and set future goals

Step 4 – Hold a 21 day public comment period for your plan draft

- Advertise two ways: local newspaper and one other medium
- Add all public comments as an appendix in your plan.

Step 5 – Submit your plan to your regional APM Coordinator for review

- Do this at least 60 days before you plan to send a permit to the DNR
- The APM Coordinator will review the plan, provide feedback and approve the plan within 45 days.

How often will plans need to be updated?

The life of a plan can be extended an additional 5 years, if plant survey data and the past 5 years of control history show the plan is still working well. In this case a plan would be updated at the 10-year mark. The DNR is committed to reducing the complexity of plans and streamlining their development and approval.