



Michigan Clean  
Water Corps

June 29th-July 12th 2026

Help Track Aquatic Invasive Species Across Michigan-  
Your Observations Make a Difference!



# MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz

*Getting Started with the  
MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz*



**WEBINAR**

# Welcome to the MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz!

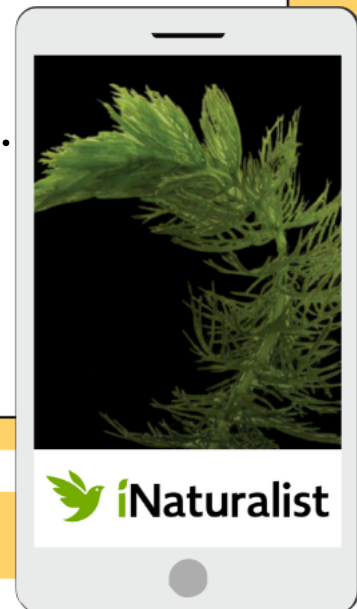
- Brief Introductions
- What is MiCorps?
- What is the AIS Detection Blitz?
- Why your participation matters



# What's a BioBlitz?

*A community effort to document as many species as possible in a specific area, within a set timeframe.*

- **Community Science:** Volunteers identify and record species together.
- **Short and Intensive:** Usually lasts a few days or a week, providing a biodiversity "snapshot."
- **Open to All:** Beginners to experts - everyone can help.
- **Easy Data Collection:** Observations (photos) can be logged using apps like iNaturalist.
- **Supports Conservation:** Data helps scientists and resource managers protect local ecosystems.



# Understanding the MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):**

Non-native organisms disrupting local ecosystems.

Examples: Zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, hydrilla, etc.

- **Why This Matters:**

AIS reduce biodiversity, harm ecosystems, and impact recreation and local economies.

Early detection helps limit spread and damage.

- **How is This Project Unique?**

A special community event - not part of standard MiCorps monitoring (CLMP, EAPW, or VSMP).

Flexible and accessible: open to everyone, everywhere, no training required.

Uses iNaturalist for quick, community-supported identification.



# Getting Started - How to Participate

- **Download iNaturalist** (free on iOS & Android)
- **Join the " 2026 MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz" Project**  
*(Use the mobile app or desktop website to join the project.)*
- **Visit Michigan waterbodies to look for AIS**  
*(Check familiar locations, or explore somewhere new - both approaches are helpful! Look along shorelines, docks, boat launches, or shallow areas.)*
- **Snap clear photos of suspected invasive species**
- **Upload observations and help experts track AIS**



# What Happens to Your Observations?

- **Collected data forms a statewide AIS map**

*(Tracks spread, identifies new invasions, and shows hotspots.)*

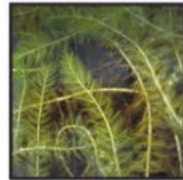
- **Helps resource managers and scientists**

*(Improves detection strategies, guides AIS management decisions.)*

- **Builds stronger, healthier Michigan ecosystems**

*(Community-driven data directly supports conservation.)*

*In summary - the MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz is a statewide community effort to document aquatic invasive species using iNaturalist, helping to map their distribution and protect Michigan's aquatic ecosystems through early detection.*





Michigan Clean  
Water Corps

Annual Event - June & July

Help Track Aquatic Invasive Species Across Michigan - Your Observations Make a Difference!



# MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz

How to Submit Great Observations on

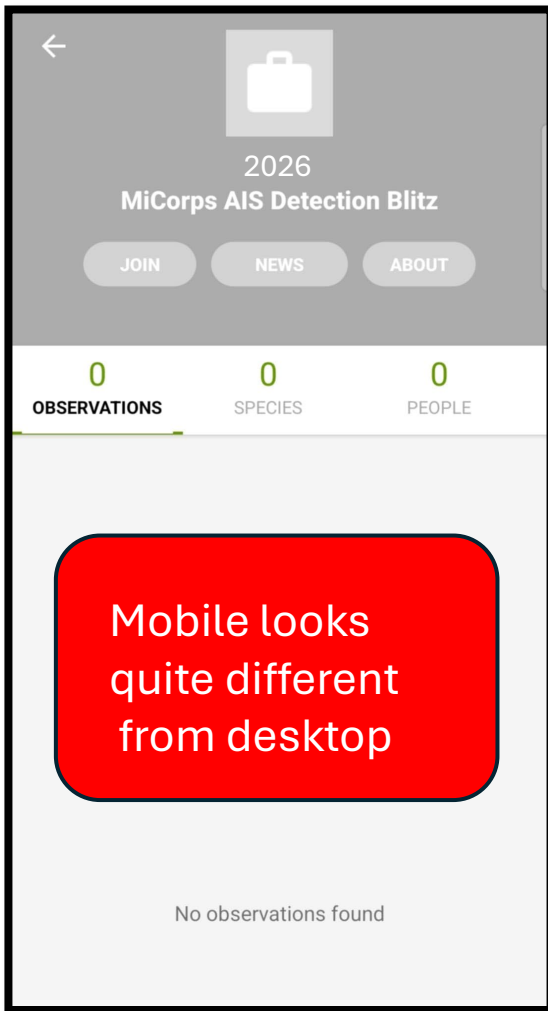


iNaturalist

*A Quick Volunteer Guide*



# Desktop vs. Mobile App: Uploading Your Observations



- **Mobile App (Recommended)**

Use the iNaturalist app directly on your smartphone. This is the easiest way to participate and upload observations while you're near the water.

- **No Cell Service?**

You can still take photos at the site and upload them later when you return to service. Just be sure to manually add the correct location before submitting your observation.

- **Desktop Option**

Photos taken with a camera or phone can also be uploaded later through the iNaturalist website, this also requires manual location entry.

**Join the project now so you're ready to go!**

# Resources and Support

- **Blitz Landing Page:**

Access FAQ, outreach & promo materials, and helpful tips to make participation easy.

*<https://www.micorps.net/events/aisblitz>*

- **Identification & Questions:**

Not sure what you found? Upload it anyway!

The iNaturalist community can help identify observations, and many species are quickly reviewed by other users and experts. There's no need to know exactly what you're looking at before submitting an observation.

**Questions about the Blitz? Reach out anytime at:**

MiCorps@msu.edu



# Organization Resources

- **Share the Blitz:**

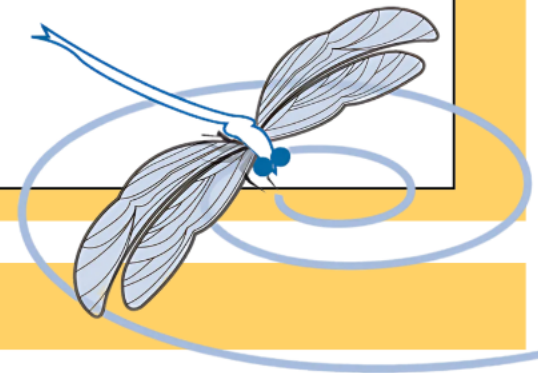
Post on social media, add it to your newsletter, or include it in your events calendar.

- **Host a Collection Day:**

Take a group to a local shoreline, launch, river, or known AIS location and submit observations together.

- **Represent Your Community:**

Help ensure your lake, river, watershed, or county is included in the statewide map.



# MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz

Help Track Aquatic Invasive Species – Just Snap & Upload!



# Questions?

# Thank You for Joining Us!



## **MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz June 29 – July 12, 2026**

Your observations make a difference!

Get involved, spread the word, and  
we'll see you out on the water!

