Michigan Clean Water Corps

June 28th-July 6th 2025

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) 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 "MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz" Project**
  (Use the mobile app or desktop website.)

- **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.)

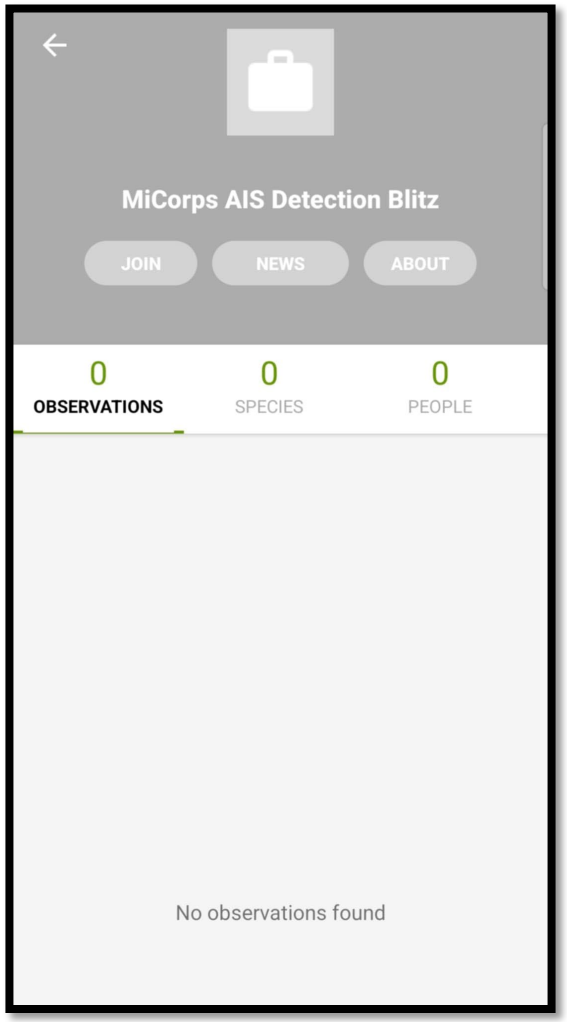
- **Helps resource managers and scientists**
  (Improves detection strategies, guides AIS management decisions.)

- **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 strengthen Michigan's ecosystems through early detection.

Tips for Successful Observations

Desktop vs. Mobile App: Uploading Your Observations



- **Desktop Option:**
  Take photos with your camera, then upload via the iNaturalist website on your computer.

- **Mobile App:**
  Use your smartphone directly. Great for on-the-go uploads - no cell service needed at the site; you can upload later!

- **Important:**
  Don't forget to add the correct location to your photos after uploading, especially if uploading later or using the desktop site.

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

Resources and Support

•Blitz Landing Page:

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

All resources and downloadable materials can be found at *micorps.net*

•Identification & Questions:

Need help identifying what you found?

Email us or message us on social media - we're here to help!

MiCorps@msu.edu

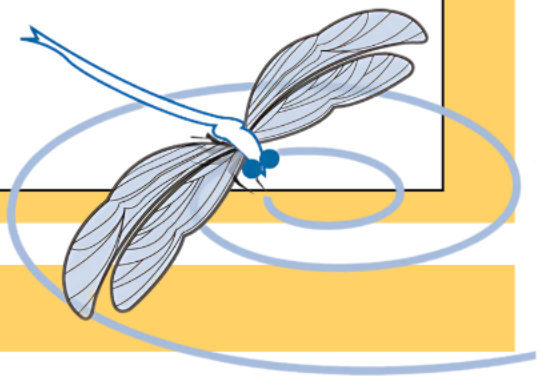
Organization Resources

•Host Your Own Event:

Organize local observation events under the MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz. No separate setup required!

•Ready-to-Use Media Kit:

Download graphics, posters, newsletter templates, and more to easily promote the Blitz within your community.



MiCorps AIS Detection Blitz

Help Track Aquatic Invasive Species – Just Snap & Upload!

Questions?

Thank You for Joining Us!

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Your observations make a difference!

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

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