

OK ANS Update & ODWC's Outreach Efforts

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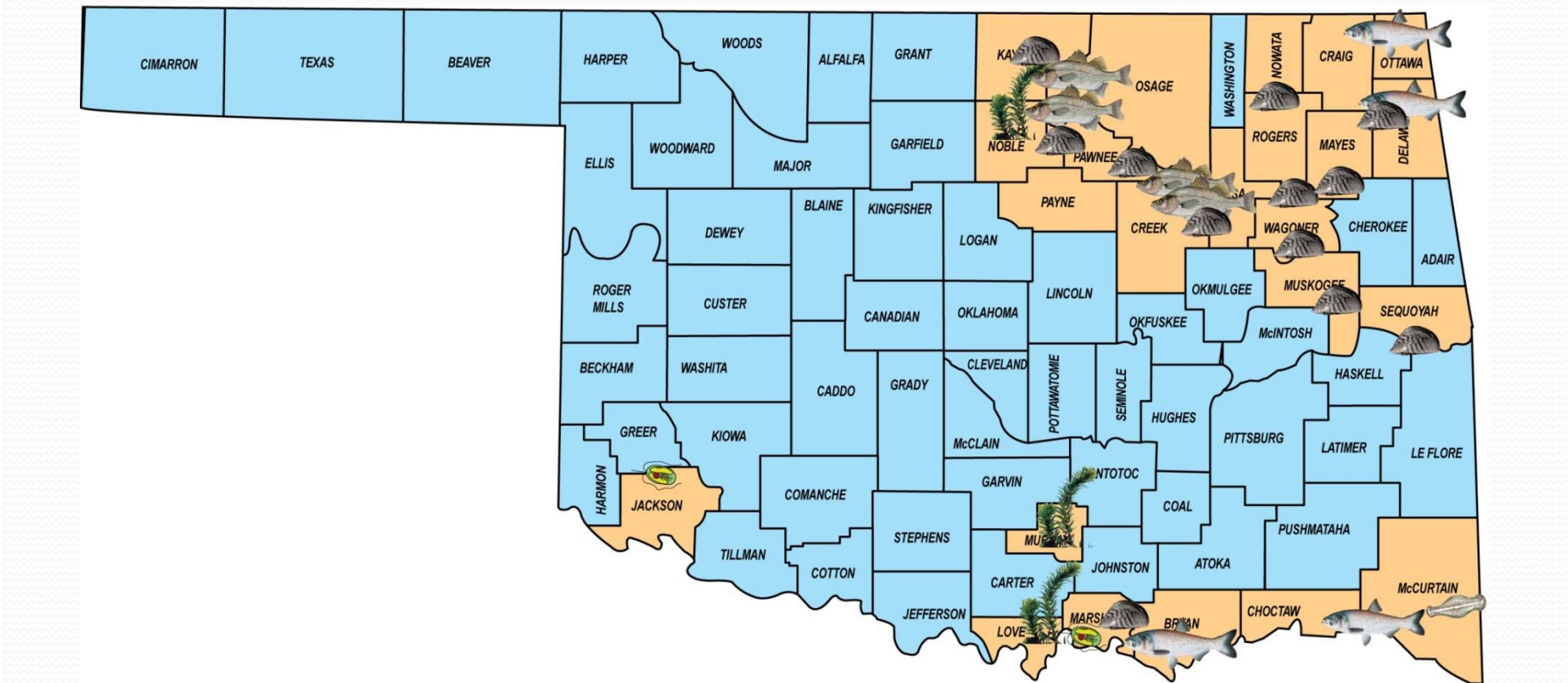
The ANS Program

- Got ANS plan approved in 2008
- Became ANS coordinator in 2009
- Program focuses:
 - **Outreach & Education**
 - Early detection monitoring
 - Law Enforcement (import/export)
 - Securing funding for research
 - Commercial permitting (aquaculture)
 - Interagency decontamination protocols

Oklahoma's Species of Concern List

- Asian Carps
 - Black Carp
 - Bighead Carp
 - Grass Carp
 - Silver Carp
- Northern Snakehead
- Brook Stickleback
- Exotic Waterflea
- New Zealand Mudsnaill
- Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia
- Whirling Disease
- Didymo
- Nutria
- Spring Viremia of Carp
- Quagga Mussel
- Rudd
- Rusty Crayfish
- White Perch
- Zebra Mussel
- Hydrilla
- Golden Alga
- Giant Salvinia
- Alligator Weed
- Purple Loosestrife
- Eurasian Water Milfoil
- Water Hyacinth
- Largemouth Bass Virus

ANS Distribution



Outreach Efforts

Signage



ANGLER ALERT!

Didymo Algae
is a threat to your trout stream.



➤ **What is Didymo?** An invasive filamentous algae that can form dense mats.

➤ **Where is Didymo?**

- Native to parts of North America.
- Prefers cool water; especially tail waters.
- Is present in the lower Mountain Fork River.
- Attaches to submerged rocks and plants.

➤ **Why is Didymo a threat?**

- Didymo can cover important habitats used by insects and trout.
- Infested areas can become difficult to fish.

Help Prevent the Spread of Didymo:

➤ **Please treat your gear!**

- Before leaving the river, remove all plants and algae from waders or any other gear that touches the water.
- Dip gear in a solution of 2% bleach, 5% salt or dishwashing detergent.
- You can also dry gear for 5 days before fishing a different stream.

➤ **Never transfer fish or plants from one water body to another.**



Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Contacts:

Streams Management Office: (580) 924-4087
Southeast Fisheries Management Office: (918) 297-0150
ODWC Central Office: (405) 521-3721



Outreach Efforts

New Signage

- Dual purpose sign
- Made to replace some SAH signs
- Easier to understand and increase exposure

Attention Anglers 14" Minimum Length Limit



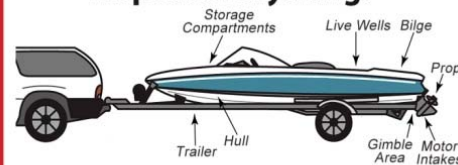
Largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 14" must be returned to the water unharmed immediately. The daily limit is six (combined) per day. There is no length limit or bag limit on spotted bass.



Consult Oklahoma fishing regulations for additional information.

• CHECK • DRAIN • DRY

inspect everything!



Prevent the spread of invasive species such as zebra mussels by cleaning all recreational equipment.



Outreach Efforts

Annual Wildlife EXPO



- Annual 3 day event
- 60,000 visitors

Fishing Regulations

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS) (405) 521-3721

WHAT ARE ANS?

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) are invasive, non-native species that threaten the ecological integrity of aquatic ecosystems in Oklahoma. ANS are brought into the state unknowingly by anglers and boaters who move their boats and equipment from one body of water to another without cleaning them. The species often have no natural predators and can expand their range and population size unchecked, damaging native species and harming lakes, streams, and rivers.

ANS can cause harm to fish populations and other aquatic organisms and can cause damage to boats and fishing equipment. Zebra mussels, for example, can destroy boat motors and water intake structures and clog up waterways. Hydrilla plants can grow thickly in an area, to the point that recreation is limited. Anglers and boaters are vital partners in preventing ANS from spreading.

As soon as you pull your boat out of the water, follow these steps.

- **CHECK**
- **DRAIN**
- **CLEAN OR DRY**

INSPECT your boat, trailer and equipment for zebra mussels, mud, plant fragments, seeds, and any other organisms from the water. Remove them.

DRAIN water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, bait containers, coolers, and ballast.

Pressure wash the boat, trailer and equipment with hot water (140° F). If pressure wash is not available, allow the boat, trailer and equipment to dry thoroughly for at least five days before visiting a new water body.

ZEBRA MUSSELS INVADE OKLAHOMA

Zebra mussels are a serious threat to Oklahoma sport fish populations. Zebra mussels feed by filtering water and removing nutrients. These nutrients are vital to the growth and survival of all other aquatic organisms. Zebra mussels accumulate on the shells of native mussels and crayfish, smothering their hosts. The ecological impacts of zebra mussels can be severe.

Zebra mussels potentially pose a multi-billion-dollar threat to industrial and public water supplies. Through both downstream movement and transport by uninformed boaters, zebra mussels have infested several lakes in Oklahoma. Zebra mussels compete with forage fish like minnows and shad for nutrients, and the Wildlife Department has already observed a decline in forage fish in affected waters. Zebra mussels can also be transported in their larval form through the movement of water from one lake to another. It is vital that each boater takes responsibility to prevent the spread of zebra mussels.

"Hi, I'm Kevin Van Dam and I make a living fishing all over the country. Unfortunately, zebra mussels are affecting a lot of our fisheries. The best way to stop the spread of them is to power wash your boat and trailer every time you leave a lake. Make sure you do it. I always do mine."



2011 OKLAHOMA FISHING GUIDE

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS) (405) 521-3721

WHERE ARE ANS?



Want more info?
Visit ProtectYourWaters.net.
Think you found ANS?
Contact biologist Curtis Tackett
at (405) 521-3721.

- Counties with confirmed ANS infestation.
- Counties without known ANS infestation.

Anglers and boaters should always "Check, Drain, Clean & Dry" their boats, even if they are not in an area with ANS infestation.

TYPES OF ANS



Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels are the most widespread ANS in Oklahoma. They can be found at Sooner Lake, Kaw Lake, Keystone Lake, Oologah Lake, Skiatook Lake, Ft. Gibson Lake, Eufaula Lake, Texoma Lake, Hudson Lake, Grand Lake, W.R. Hollway Lake, Ponca City Lake, Lake Carl Blackwell, Robert S. Kerr Reservoir, Red River, McClellan - Kerr Navigation System, Bluestem Lake, Eucha Lake, Claremore Lake, Arkansas River system and Webbers Falls.



Asian Carp

Bighead and Silver Carp, shown on left with bighead carp on top, are competing for food with native species. Bighead Carp are found in the Neosho and Grand Rivers, Grand Lake, the Red River, and both species have infested the Kiamichi River below Hugo Reservoir.



White Perch

White Perch were accidentally introduced into Kansas, and have moved downstream into Kaw, Keystone and Sooner reservoirs. Anglers must be careful not to transplant these fish, because they can appear similar to native species such as white bass or shad.

Golden Alga

Golden alga is a microscopic organism that under certain conditions releases a toxin that can kill fish. Golden alga has caused relatively minor fish kills at Lake Texoma and Altus City Lake.



Microscopic view

Didymo

Didymo is an invasive algae that attaches to plants and rocks in stream beds. It is in the Lower Mountain Fork River. Didymo, also known as rock snail, can foul streams and rivers, so anglers are encouraged to take precautions after fishing.



Microscopic view



Hydrilla

Hydrilla plants are present in Arbuckle Lake, Lake Murray, Sooner Lake. Hydrilla is possibly the most damaging aquatic plant in the United States. Even a fragment of the plant can start a widespread infestation.

There are more than 1,120 square miles of lakes and ponds in Oklahoma (nearly the size of Rhode Island).

Outreach Efforts

Boat and Tackle Show Displays



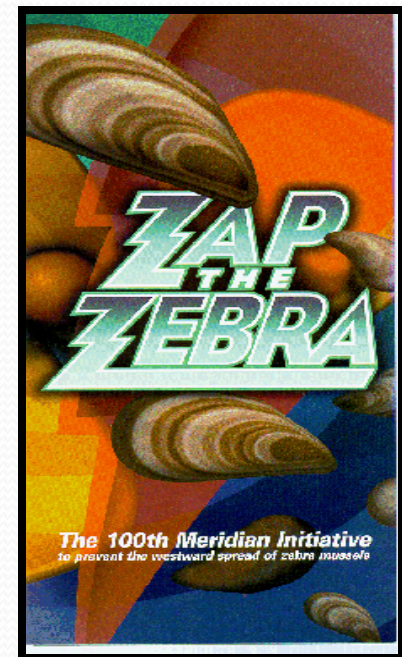
Outreach Efforts

Truck Tailgate Wraps



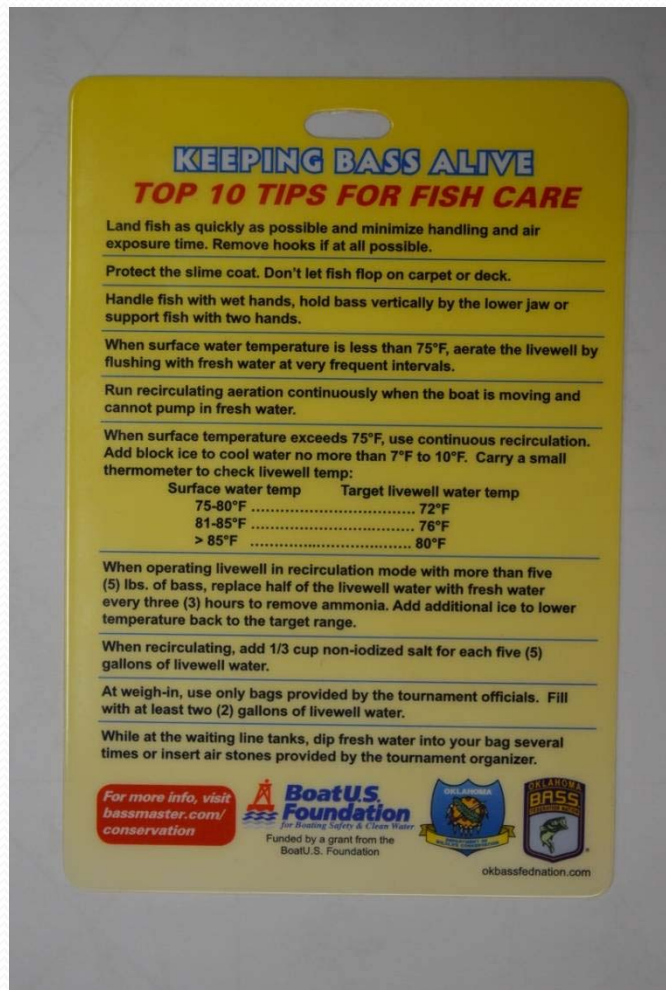
- Installed on 15 fisheries trucks
- Inexpensive
- Great Exposure at boat ramps

Outreach Stickers



Outreach Efforts

Angler/ANS Cards



Outreach Efforts

Tournament Boat Wash



- Bass tournament in NE @ Ft. Gibson in June
- Washed over 50 boats
- Got sound bytes from pro anglers for TV show

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