



February 20, 2019

Re: **Itasca FiveStar Initiative**

Dear Lake Service Provider;

The Itasca AIS Program and participating area lake associations are implementing an initiative intended to **promote your business** to lake and river shoreline property owners and to prevent AIS from being transported from one body of water to another. I am writing to invite you to participate.

Here's how the **Itasca FiveStar** initiative works: Participating businesses agree to implement a set of common-sense AIS safeguards. In return for agreeing to implement safeguards, the Itasca AIS Program and participating lake associations will market and promote your business to shoreline property owners. We'll promote your business through Itasca AIS Program and lake association web-sites, at the many Itasca AIS program and lake association meetings and events, we'll include you in our newsletters, electronic and hardcopy mailings, and in our multiple Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms.

We invite you to participate. The Itasca FiveStar initiative is **voluntary**. There is **no fee** to participate. Please read through the attached safeguards and benefits. If you'd like to participate, please complete the attached form and return it electronically or via hard copy to the addresses listed at the bottom of the form.

Thank you. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Bill Grantges
Itasca AIS Program
coordinator@itascaais.info
218-256-4243



Itasca FiveStar Lake Service Providers are those who agree to implement the following AIS safeguards *in addition* to earning and maintaining Minnesota DNR Permitted status:

1. I agree to monitor closely the official DNR list of infested waters so I am always up to date on which waters are infested. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>
2. I agree that *any* equipment I use in AIS infested lakes will before its use in *any other lake* **always** undergo a thorough thermal decontamination to DNR spec, performed myself, performed by a DNR-certified AIS technician on my staff, or via an AIS thermal decontamination unit operated by the Itasca AIS program (218-256-4243).
3. I agree to certify that any used dock, lift, swim-raft, anchor, ladder, buoy, or any similar water-related equipment I sell or am asked to move from one water body to another has been out of the water and dried out for at least 21 days **AND** undergone a thorough thermal decontamination performed by the Itasca County AIS program (218-256-4243) or other DNR-certified AIS technician.

Decontamination always includes a non-contact infrared thermometer to verify water temperature. **The Itasca County AIS program is happy to provide inspection and decontamination services for free.**

4. I agree that the Itasca AIS program may from time-to-time visit and review my operations to determine that my firm is abiding by this Agreement and offer recommendations for improvement.
5. The Itasca AIS program offers to pay the *initial* registration fee for any lake service provider who achieves MN DNR Permitted status. In addition, the Itasca AIS program offers to pay the *ongoing* registration fee to maintain MN DNR Permitted-status for all Itasca FiveStar lake service providers.

Participation in the Itasca FiveStar Initiative is voluntary. There is no fee to participate. In return for agreeing to implement safeguards, the Itasca AIS Program and participating lake associations will market and promote your business to shoreline property owners in the following ways: we'll utilize Itasca AIS Program and lake association web-sites, the many Itasca AIS program and lake association meetings and events, we'll include you in our newsletters, electronic and hardcopy mailings, and in our multiple Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms.

Lake Service Provider Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

eMail address _____

Lake Service Provider Authorized Signature _____ **Date** _____

Complete and return this form to Itasca AIS Program at coordinator@itascaais.info, or hardcopy via US Mail to Itasca SWCD AIS, 1889 East US Hwy 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744. Questions? Call 218-256-4243.