

What Can YOU do to Halt the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?

“Eyes and Ears of the Lake” is Good Lake Stewardship

VISIT www.dnr.state.mn.us for more information



Zebra Mussels impact recreational use of lakes



Zebra Mussels can attach to aquatic plants



Juvenile Zebra Mussels are small



**Zebra Mussels on a native clam
ALSO: Zebra Mussels deplete food supply for native fish**

- **Hire dock & boat lift installers that are DNR trained Lake Service Providers** They are trained to protect non-infested waters from AIS and identify new infestations. It's the law for anyone working for hire in Minnesota public waters - the business is required to obtain a \$50 DNR permit. The employee is required to obtain a FREE DNR certification online. (DNR website - search **LSP**) Use your Smartphone to scan this QR code for a list of DNR permitted Lake Service Providers.

Ask to see the DNR issued certificate of the LSP dock and lift worker. They are required to carry. Businesses and workers that are properly trained will be happy to show you their credentials.



- **Know that watercraft and all water-related equipment can spread AIS** Adult Zebra Mussels (ZM) can live for up to **30 days** and ZM larvae (veligers) are microscopic and cannot be seen. Veligers can live in water for up to **27 days** - so any watercraft that has moist areas and not completely dry could transport live veligers when moving boats from lake to lake. That includes all wakeboard/fishing/sail boats, jet skis, scuba gear, float planes, canoes, kayaks, all fishing gear, waders and waterfowl hunting gear. **CLEAN DRAIN and DRY** thoroughly before going from lake to lake.
 - **Moving a dock, boatlift or other water-related equipment is risky** Docks, boat lifts, rafts and all other water-related equipment must be out of water **at least 21 days** prior to installing into another lake. **IT'S THE LAW!** If purchasing used equipment, be cautious about where it previously had been installed. The safest is to let used equipment freeze over winter and install in the spring.
 - **Educate guests!** Make sure transported watercraft or water-related equipment of guests arriving from other lakes/ivers (including out-of-state) are free of zebra mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species. (Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas and others not yet in Minnesota - like hydrilla)
- Watercraft coming from infested waters should adhere to recommended dry times or professional decontamination. (100thmeridian.org - search **dry time estimator**)
- **Know current laws and follow them.** Before leaving public accesses, water must be drained from all water-related equipment. All bait containers with lake water must be drained and watercraft must be **transported with the plug out**. (DNR website - search **invasive species laws**)
 - **Know where designated infested waters are** in Minnesota (DNR website - search **infested waters**) and other states. It is important to know that others waters could be infested and not yet identified. It is best to take precautions when moving any watercraft or equipment from lake to lake. This means treating with 140° water for 10 seconds **or** drying for recommended times which can be found at: 100thmeridian.org search **dry time estimator**. A unilateral 5 days in MN is not enough.
 - **Learn to identify each aquatic invasive** (zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas, rusty crayfish etc). Be aware of AIS not currently in MN such as hydrilla which is in Iowa.
 - **Promote good relationships** among your lake neighbors. Make sure neighbors know how to prevent the spread of AIS and follow the laws of the state. Boats coming from other lakes should take precautions.
 - **Report suspected new AIS sightings to the DNR.** It's the law!

QUESTIONS: DNR - Ecological and Water Resources - 651-259-5100

www.dnr.state.mn.us



Produced and distributed by
Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA)
MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com