

Help stop the...

INVASION OF THE Zebra Mussels IN LAKE MINNETONKA!



Stop'em before they start by washing your boat!



BACKGROUND:

The zebra mussel is a brown and yellow fingernail-sized mussel first introduced into North America from the Caspian Sea region in Asia through the discharge of international shipping ballast water. They were first found in Lake St. Clair near Detroit in 1988 and have since spread to all of the Great Lakes, the Mississippi River, and are showing up in inland lakes.

INFESTED WATERS:

With the exception of the states of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, bodies of water infested with zebra mussel are those states that either border or are east of the Mississippi River. In the upper midwest, known zebra mussel infested waters, per MN DNR, in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa are detailed below:

MINNESOTA

- Mississippi River - downstream of St. Anthony Falls
- Duluth Harbor and estuary - Lake Superior
- Two Harbors harbor area - Lake Superior
- St. Louis River, downstream of Fond du Lac dam

IOWA

- Mississippi River

WISCONSIN

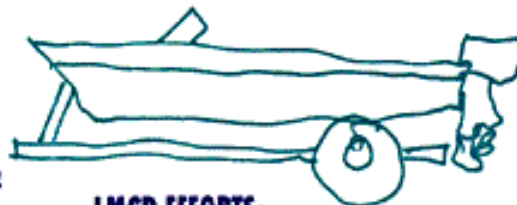
- Big Elkhart Lake (Shryboyan County)
- Silver Lake (Kenosha County)
- Lake Geneva (Walworth County)
- Racine Quarry (Racine County)
- Lake Michigan
- St. Louis River and estuary

Feel free to call Gary Montz at the MN DNR, (651) 297-4888, or the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) office (612) 745-0789 if you have been in waters and have questions on whether it has been infested.

MINNESOTA STATUTES:

In Minnesota, it is unlawful to:

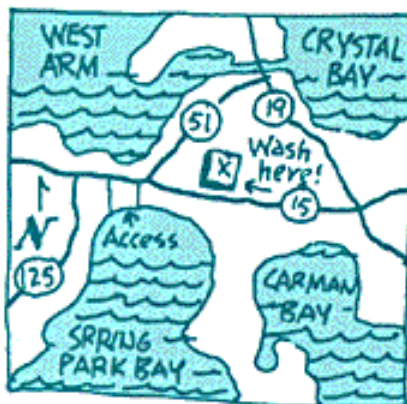
- Transport any aquatic plants on any public road, there are exceptions allowed in the statute (per Minnesota Statute 84D.09 & 84D.13).
- Place or attempt to place in waters of the state a watercraft, a trailer, or plant harvesting equipment that has aquatic macrophytes (plants), zebra mussels, or prohibited exotic species attached (per Minnesota Statutes 84D.10).
- Transport water and live fish from infested waters. Water from infested waters may not be used to transport fish (per Minnesota Rule 6216.0500).
- Leave Minnesota waters infested with zebra mussels without draining bait containers, other boating-related equipment holding water (not marine sanitary systems), and livewells and bilges without removing drain plug before transporting the watercraft and associated equipment on public roads (per Minnesota Rule 6216.0500).



LMCD EFFORTS:

To supplement Minnesota Statutes and Rules, the LMCD has taken proactive steps to reduce the chances of infesting Lake Minnetonka with zebra mussels. First, an ordinance has been adopted for all special events on Lake Minnetonka. It requires all watercraft that has been, or will be, in zebra mussel infested waters 30 days prior to a special event to either have the watercraft completely dry for five days prior to the special event or to have it inspected and/or washed prior to participating in the event. Watercraft are being washed with hot water by a high-pressure sprayer purchased with "Save the Lake" funds. Second, this sprayer is also available to the general public who have been in zebra mussel infested water and would like to have their watercraft cleaned. This service is being provided free-of-charge to both special event participants and the general public.

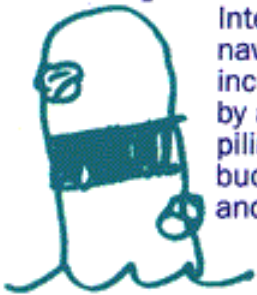
The location of the zebra mussel boat washdown station is at the Hennepin County Transportation Facility in Orono along County Road 15, 1 block east of Spring Park bay access. For further details on the washdown station and the LMCD zebra mussel prevention program, please call the toll free zebra mussel hotline number 1-877-525-3873.



Don't let the zebra mussel muscle in on your fun in Lake Minnetonka

It is estimated that colonies of zebra mussels can grow to contain as many as 100,000 per square yard once they are introduced into a body of water. This may result in a great number of significant impacts including:

1. They can encrust your dock



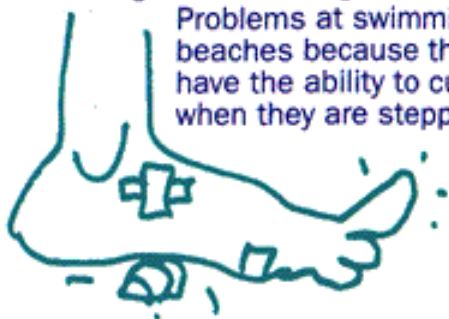
Interference with navigation and increasing corrosion by attaching to pier pilings, navigational buoys and markers, and docks.

2. They can cost you money

A decrease in fuel efficiency and the damaging of engines by growing on boat hulls and inside engine systems.



3. They can cut your feet



Problems at swimming beaches because the shells have the ability to cut feet when they are stepped on.

PREVENTION:

We are concerned that recreational boaters may unknowingly spread the zebra mussel from infested rivers and lakes to previously unaffected waterways. If you have boated in infested waters, you are recommended to use the checklist before you leave the public access.

INSPECT	DRAIN	WASH	REMOVE AQUATIC PLANTS	
X		X	X	Trailer Frames
X		X		Boat Hulls
X	X	X	X	Outdrive units
X		X		Trim Plates
X		X		Trolling plates
X		X	X	Props and prop guards
X			X	Transducers
X		X	X	Anchor and rope or chain
	X	X		All bilge water
X	X	X		Live Wells (and their pumping systems)
	X			Bait buckets
	X	X		Raw Water engine cooling systems
X	X	X	X	And other boat accessories that get wet



Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
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Deephaven, MN 55391

Zebra Mussel Hotline #
1-877-525-3873 (Toll Free)
web address www.lmcd.org

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