



June 1, 2016

Dear Deer Lake Resort Owner;

The Deer Lake Association this year is sponsoring a free Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) education opportunity for owners and/or staff at resorts on Deer Lake. **At your request, Rich Anderson, the Itasca County AIS Supervising Inspector and Deer Lake resident will come to you and provide information and training about AIS for the purpose of preventing AIS introduction into Deer Lake.** This service is free and voluntary.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) include zebra mussels, spiny water-flea, and Eurasian watermilfoil. Introduction of these invasives could be devastating to your resort in particular and to Deer Lake as a whole. AIS are transported from lake to lake via boats, trailers, bilge, live wells, bait water, and on docks, lifts, and float planes. In particular, we are at risk when guests launch boats into Deer Lake when coming from infested bodies of water. Unfortunately, the list of infested lakes is growing every year and now includes numerous recreational lakes in the Metro area and several fishing lakes in the local area.

The Deer Lake Association and Itasca County are actively seeking to prevent AIS introduction into Deer Lake. As a result, we have created an education program for all Deer Lake property owners and are performing inspections on boats prior to launch at the Deer Lake public access.

If you offer your guests use of a private boat launch at your resort, your guests could unknowingly introduce zebra mussels, milfoil, or other invasive species to your shore. There are several simple steps that boat owners can take to significantly reduce the risk of AIS. It's important for Resort Owners and resort staff to understand how AIS are transported and how the Clean, Drain, and Dry procedure can be effective if practiced by boat owners. Please see attached for more information about AIS.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this voluntary and no cost service, please call Itasca County AIS Supervising Inspector Rich Anderson at 612-616-6830.

Thank you,

John Davis
Deer Lake Association
Neighborhood Communications Program
beautifuldeerlake@gmail.com

How can I help prevent aquatic invasive species in Deer Lake?

Some boaters and property owners have a fatalistic approach to invasives, thinking it's only a matter of time, or maybe introduction of zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, or other aquatic invasive species (AIS) wouldn't be so bad. Make no mistake about it. Introduction of AIS could be devastating to Deer Lake. AIS can alter a lake's natural balance, ruin shorelines, and can affect fish populations and habitats. But so far infested waters count for less than 1% of MN surface water. As a result, it's not yet too late. **We can help prevent AIS from being introduced to Deer Lake by practicing the Clean, Drain, Dry procedure.**

That's because **AIS are transported from lake to lake via boats and trailers, via bilge, live well, and bait water, and on docks, and lifts.** Zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil are two of the major AIS risks to Deer Lake.

Zebra Mussels (ZM)

ZM larvae are called veligers. A veliger is about 40 microns in length, nearly microscopic. (A period on a printed page is about 600 microns in size). A juvenile can be the size of a grain of sand, and an adult can be less than 1 inch long. A single ZM female will lay over 500,000 eggs in a spawning season, and can be transported considerable distances by water currents. ZM can live in bilge water, live wells, and bait water or will attach to shafts/propellers, boat bottoms, boat lifts and docks. That's how they are spread from lake to lake. ZMs have a life span of 4-6 years. After dying, their razor sharp shells will wash up on shore and ruin beach and swimming areas. Marl in our lake bed contains calcium, a favorable habitat for zebra mussels, making it more likely that ZM could flourish in Deer Lake. For pictures and more information about ZM see

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html>

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EM)

EM fragments in live wells and bait water or clinging to boats and trailers can spread the plant from lake to lake. When established, EM is fast growing, forming thick underwater stands of tangled stems and vast mats of vegetation on the water's surface, especially in shallow water. These mats limit boating, swimming, and fishing. EM can disrupt the ecology of a lake by crowding out important native aquatic plants needed for a healthy fishery. A key factor in the plant's success is its ability to reproduce through stem fragmentation and runners. A single segment of stem and leaves can take root and form a new colony. For pictures and more information about EM see

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/milfoil/index.html>

AIS Infests Waters Near Us

ZM have been discovered in Lake Winnibigoshish and connected lakes, and have moved into limited portions of the Mississippi River below Lake Winni. ZM have also been discovered in Sand Lake, less than 20 miles away from us. ZM and EM infests several popular Twin Cities lakes that our guests may frequent. EM has been discovered in Hale and McKinney Lakes in Grand Rapids. There is yet no way to eradicate AIS once established, so we must focus on prevention.

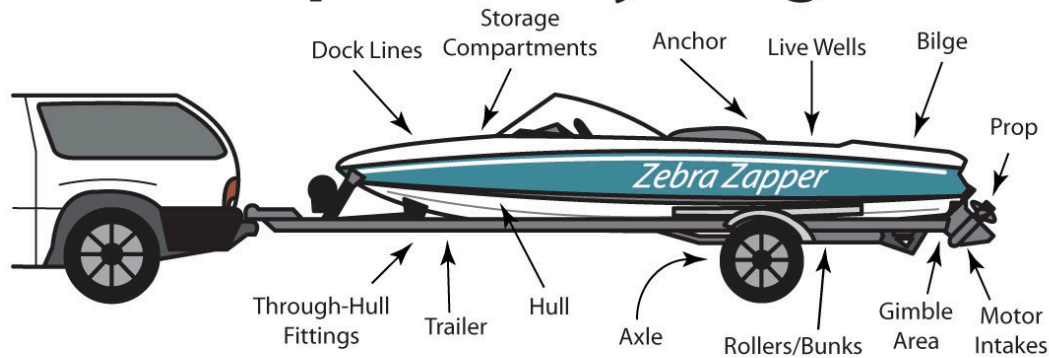
In fact, two forms of invasive species have already been discovered in limited numbers on Deer Lake: purple loosestrife and curly leaf pond weed. The Deer Lake Association and member lakeshore owners have taken action in an attempt to remove them.

What can I do?

Many of us launch our boats and install our lifts in Deer Lake once per year then leave them all season. *Others move our boats in and out of Deer Lake to neighboring lakes for fishing. Some of us host guests who bring their own boats or personal watercraft.*

The only way for AIS to enter Deer Lake is for AIS to be introduced by a boat, trailer, dock, lift, float plane, or other gear previously used on an infested lake. Therefore, Deer Lake property owners and guests must practice the *Clean, Drain, Dry* procedure.

Before leaving and before launching... **inspect everything!**



Clean, Drain, Dry Procedure

It's the law.

There are three likely hiding places for zebra mussels, milfoil, and other invasives: **Exterior boat/engine/trailer, interior bilge/live well; or bait water** from a minnow pail.

1. **Remove all standing water, mud, aquatic plants and invasive species from boat, trailer, and equipment BEFORE driving away** from the launch at ANY lake, regardless whether or not that lake is infested.
2. **Remove the bilge drain plug, and drain all lake water** from the boat interior including from live wells or internal ballast systems before driving away from any lake. **Dump bait water and excess bait on land well away from the shore.**
3. Boats coming to Deer Lake from infested waters must receive a **thorough hot water exterior cleaning** prior to launch **or** dry-out for at least 5 days. The best way to accomplish a thorough exterior cleaning is a **hot-water pressure-wash** by a mobile thermal decontamination unit. **Call Itasca County AIS Supervising Inspector and Deer Lake resident Rich Anderson at 612-616-6830** for the current location of the closest thermal decontamination unit. If possible, Rich **will bring the mobile decontamination unit to you.** *This thorough exterior hot water pressure cleaning is a requirement for all boats that have been in infested waters during 5 days prior to launch.*
4. **If you purchase a dock or lift that has been used on any other lake or river, that dock or lift must be thoroughly cleaned, then dried for at least 21 days** prior to introduction to Deer Lake (or any lake).

This procedure means **Deer Lake property owners need to know which MN waters are infested.** You can find the current list of MN infested waters at

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/infested_waters.pdf or for an up-to-the-minute question about infested waters, you can call Rich Anderson, Itasca County AIS Supervising Inspector and Deer Lake resident, at 612-616-6830.

Clean, Drain, and Dry 30 second video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IEcDnLDpz8>

*The clean, drain, and dry procedure also applies to **other gear** used in infested waters, including swim rafts, ladders, paddleboats, sailboats, stand-up paddle boards, scuba gear, canoes, kayaks, fishing gear, waders, waterfowl hunting gear, and any other similar items that may sit in the water for a day or more.*

Anyone you hire to install or remove your dock or boat lift must be DNR trained. The business needs a permit, and the worker needs DNR certification. Ask to see your service provider's DNR issued certificate. Service business and workers who are properly trained will be happy to show you their credentials. For more information and a list of certified service providers in Itasca County see <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lsp/index.html>

For more AIS information see http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/shoreland_owners.html

On DLA web-site see <http://deerlakeassociation.org/index.cfm?pageid=31697>



Photo by Rich Anderson