

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



Zebra Mussels impact recreational use of lakes



Zebra Mussels attach to plants



Juvenile Zebra Mussels are small



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

- **Hire dock and boat lift installers that are DNR trained Lake Service Providers (LSP).** It's the law for anyone working for hire in Minnesota public waters. The business needs a permit - the worker needs DNR certification. (DNR website - search **LSP**)

Ask to see the DNR issued certificate of the LSP dock and lift worker. 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.** This includes fishing boats, jet skis, wakeboard boats, sailboats, scuba gear, float planes, canoes, kayaks, all fishing gear, waders, docks, boat lifts, moorings, and waterfowl hunting gear.

- **Learn to identify each aquatic invasive** (zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas, etc). Establish a lake monitoring team for early detection of new AIS infestations which translates to quicker and more effective treatment options. Be aware of AIS not currently in MN but considered a threat such as hydrilla. (DNR website - search **aquatic invasive identification**)

- **Know where designated infested waters are** in Minnesota and other states. (DNR website - search **infested waters**)

- **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, Flowering Rush and others)

Watercraft coming from infested waters should adhere to recommended dry times or professional decontamination. (100thmeridian.org - search **dry time estimator**)

- **Encourage resorts/campsites/hotels to train marina employees** on AIS and to use precautionary measures when working with water-related equipment arriving from other lakes and rivers. All arriving watercraft and water-related equipment needs to be free of AIS - **Cleaned and Drained** before entering the water. Water-related equipment that is **Dry** is less likely to spread AIS.

- **Organize a volunteer inspection program** for public accesses and contact the DNR for training. Be "**Eyes and Ears of the Lake**". (DNR website - search **watercraft inspection**)

- **Promote good AIS relationships** among your lake neighbors, the DNR AIS Specialist and law enforcement by including DNR and law enforcement as speakers during your lake association meeting. (DNR website - search **aquatic invasive species contacts**)

- **Report suspected new AIS sightings to the DNR.** It's the law!

- **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**)

QUESTIONS: Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com
DNR - Ecological and Water Resources - 651-259-5100 www.dnr.state.mn.us
Local Sheriff or Conservation Officer