

Follow up: Zebra mussels in Big McKenzie Lake

7 messages

Hi Lisa,

Fri, Oct 21, 2016 at 11:01 AM

Thank you for discussing the recent identification of adult zebra mussels at a single location in Big McKenzie Lake, Burnett County. A property owner found two attached to his dock, and Kris found one attached to a water intake along the shore. We are really sorry to deliver this news and will work together to understand the extent of the population and educate the local community into the future.

Discussion points and follow-ups from our conversation include:

1. McKenzie Lakes Association will request property owners check their docks, boats, and other equipment as they remove it. Here is a tracking form folks can use: <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/programs/CLMN/forms/3200-126-animalincident.pdf>. It's important to record both locations where zebra mussels are found, as well as those where they are not found. This form could you be used for tracking locations where there were no zebra mussels <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Documents/programs/CLMN/forms/3200-130-presenceabsence-multiplelocations.pdf>, although a list of addresses or locations marked on a lake map would also suffice. Kris can talk you or other folks through the forms, if necessary.
2. DNR and other partners like Burnett and Washburn Counties and the lake association will do additional monitoring in 2017 when water temperatures are more conducive to zebra mussel reproduction.
3. Washburn County (Lisa Burns) will be posting improved signage at the landings.
4. There is grant funding available to complete watercraft inspections – both at public and private boat landings, educate folks, construct boat cleaning stations and kiosks, and more. The next grant deadline is December 10th, and we are happy to guide the lake group should you be interested in applying for grant funding. <http://dnr.wi.gov/aid/surfacewater.html>
5. The lake association would like a DNR speaker/expert to join them at their annual meeting Memorial Day weekend 2017. We can follow up on this and are certainly available to meet sooner with a smaller group, as well.
6. DNR will probably coordinate a press release to share the news of the recent discovery and remind local communities to be on the lookout for zebra mussels (and other AIS) this time of year and use clean boater hygiene. Unfortunately, this appears to be the first zebra mussel population in an inland lake in northwest Wisconsin, and historic populations elsewhere indicate downstream spread (i.e. to other lakes, the Namakagon and St. Croix) may be likely over the course of years.
7. There is no known effective zebra mussel control method at this time.

We sure appreciate your interest and support in getting word out. I'd suggest sharing the laws and steps related to preventing the spread of AIS, as well: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/invasives/boat.html>.

AIS Specialist Kris Larsen ([715-635-4072](tel:715-635-4072) and copied) is available should you have questions, and you are also welcome to contact me, especially if you are interested in grant funding.

Best regards and – sorry!

Pamela Toshner

Lake Biologist – Water Quality Bureau/Water Division
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
810 West Maple Street

Spooner WI 54801
Phone: (715) 635-4073 Desk

pamela.toshner@wi.gov