



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) INSPECTION AND CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAKE MINNETONKA SERVICE PROVIDERS August, 2010

Background

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD), in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) and a number of other public agencies and organizations, has made significant efforts in recent years to prevent the introduction of new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into Lake Minnetonka. Additionally, the LMCD is equally committed to containing existing AIS as well. With the recent discovery of zebra mussels in Lake Minnetonka on July 28th, the LMCD has initiated a containment process, in which your assistance is of high importance.

Rapid Assessment Surveys were coordinated shortly after July 28th to assess the extent of the zebra mussel infestation. These surveys quickly identified zebra mussel locations, although they did not establish quantities or densities. Based on these surveys, zebra mussels are quite widespread in the Lower Lake, although they have not been found in the Upper Lake. Zebra mussels have been located in Grays Bay, Wayzata Bay (near the 101 Causeway and Spirit Island), Browns Bay, St. Louis Bay, and off of Big Island (see attached map for further details).

A training session was coordinated by the MN DNR and the LMCD for Lake Minnetonka service providers on August 12th at Tonka Bay Marina. A number of you attended this training session. The session was essential because it provided you an update on the zebra mussel infestation and outlined expectations for service providers operating on Lake Minnetonka; specifically as this boating season draws to a close. My hope is to schedule another MN DNR training session in the near future, in which the LMCD will be in contact with you. Training sessions are being coordinated for your benefit. For those that have not attended, please consider the next session as a high priority. For those that have attended, please consider diversifying the training amongst your staff.

Minnesota AIS Laws

As a Lake Minnetonka service provider, you need to ensure compliance with the following State laws:

- It is **illegal** to transport any aquatic plants or prohibited AIS on public roads utilizing boats, trailers, barges, harvesters, and other equipment (including boat lifts, docks, swim rafts, and weed rollers).
- It is **illegal** to transport water from all designated infested waters, including Lake Minnetonka, without a permit from the MN DNR.
- Effective July 1st, all holding water **must** be drained from motors, boat bilges, livewells, and other boating equipment.
- It is **illegal** to launch boats, trailers, barges, harvesters, and other equipment with zebra mussels or aquatic plants attached.

Penalties Associated With AIS Violations:

(Officers May Issue Civil or Misdemeanor Citations)

Violation

Penalty

Transporting aquatic plants on public roads

\$50 civil penalty

Transporting zebra mussels or other prohibited species of animals on public roads

\$250 civil penalty or misdemeanor

Place or attempt to place into waters of the State a watercraft that has:

*\$100 civil penalty
\$500 civil penalty or misdemeanor*

- *Aquatic plants*
- *Zebra mussels or other prohibited species*

Failing to drain water from watercraft and equipment before leaving designated zebra mussel, spiny water flea, or other invasive plankton infested waters

\$50 civil penalty or misdemeanor

Refuse to submit to an inspection

Suspend watercraft license for one-year

Refuse to obey an order of a peace officer or conservation officer to removed prohibited invasive species or aquatic macrophyte from any watercraft, trailer, barge, harvester, or other equipment

Gross misdemeanor or suspend license for one year

AIS Inspection and Cleaning Recommendations for Lake Service Providers

(Boats, Trailers, Barges, Harvesters, Docks, Boat Lifts, and Other Equipment)

- When pulling boats, trailers, barges, harvesters, docks, boat lifts, and other equipment for the 2010 boating season, please inspect to verify if there are attached zebra mussels. If zebra mussels are found, please contact Brittany Hummel at the MN DNR (see page 4).
- State law requires you to properly clean the boats, trailers, barges, harvesters, docks, boat lifts, and other equipment prior to transporting them on public roads. If there are attached zebra mussels, they must be scraped off. Additionally, all water must be drained. A spray/rinse with high pressure and/or hot tap water is recommended, above 120 degrees Fahrenheit, especially if moored for more than one day. An alternative to a high pressure spray/rinse is to dry the watercraft for at least five days.
- Personal watercraft (PWC) operators should turn on the engine for five to ten seconds after removing the watercraft from the water to expel the water and organisms inside the impeller. Additionally, PWC operators are subject to the same Minnesota laws noted within. If questions, you are encouraged to contact Jay Rendall at the MN DNR (see page 4).
- The LMCD and the MN DNR recognize that a number of boats, trailers, barges, harvesters, docks, boat lifts, and other equipment are stored for the winter off of Lake Minnetonka and that proper cleaning at both public and private accesses around the Lake Minnetonka community is quite difficult. In response to this, the MN DNR has established a permit process that would allow for you to transport the boats, trailers, barges, harvesters, docks, boat lifts, and other equipment on public roads and clean them off-site prior to winter storage. For further details on this permit, please contact Jay Rendall from the MN DNR (see page 4).
- If you believe that other lake service providers are not complying with State Law, you are encouraged to contact MN DNR Conservation Officer Jackie Glaser (see page 4).

Barges and Harvesters:

- It is recognized that the use of barges and harvesting equipment frequently takes place on Lake Minnetonka for: 1) shoreline enhancement projects, 2) dock installations, 3) installation and removal of boat lifts, and 4) removal of Eurasian watermilfoil.
- A recommended best management practice is to establish barges and harvesting equipment for Lake Minnetonka use only. However, it is recognized that this might be difficult for some of you.
- For those that cannot establish barges and harvesting equipment for exclusive use on Lake Minnetonka, please refer to bullet points two and three above for cleaning requirements.

Docks, Boat Lifts, and Other Equipment

The LMCD and MN DNR recognize that a great deal of docks, boat lifts, and other equipment are stored on site for the winter by your customer. Although not required by State law, we recommend that similar cleaning precautions are made prior to installing this equipment for the 2011 boating season.

Further Information

The MN DNR has established a clearing house webpage for details on zebra mussels in Lake Minnetonka. The following is a link to that website:

(www.mndnr.gov/minnetonka_zebra_mussels). Additionally, the following contacts are provided for your assistance. You are encouraged to utilize these contacts for any questions or comments you may have.

- Brittany Hummel, MN DNR
Natural Resources Specialist
(651) 259-5828
brittany.hummel@state.mn.us
- Jay Rendall, MN DNR
Invasive Species Prevent Coordinator
(651) 259-5131
jay.rendall@state.mn.us
- Jackie Glaser, MN DNR
Conservation Officer
(952) 442-6423
jackie.glaser@state.mn.us
- Greg Nybeck, LMCD
Executive Director
(952) 745-0789
gnybeck@lmcd.org