



## **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) INSPECTION AND CLEANING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAKE MINNETONKA RESIDENTIAL/COMMUNITY USE 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 28<sup>th</sup>, the LMCD has initiated a containment process, in which your assistance is of high importance.

Rapid Assessment Surveys were coordinated shortly after July 28<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> at Tonka Bay Marina. Service providers in attendance included commercial marinas, dock installers, watercraft transportation companies, etc., in which they were apprised of the current state laws in the transportation of AIS. Additionally, they were provided inspection and cleaning recommendations in the handling of boats, trailers, barges, harvesters, docks, boat lifts, and other equipment. If you utilize a service provider, you are encouraged to verify whether the provider attended the August 12<sup>th</sup> training session and if they are aware of the current laws.

The LMCD has created this document to provide you with recommendations on how to properly inspect and clean your boats, trailers, barges, docks, boat lifts, and other equipment; especially as the 2010 boating season draws to a close. Please take a moment to review the following information:

## **Minnesota AIS Laws**

As a Lake Minnetonka residential/community stakeholder, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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*

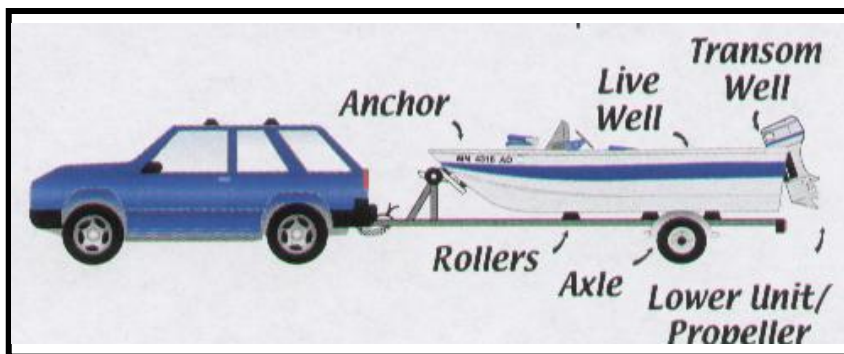
*Refuse to submit to an inspection*

*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*

Recommended areas to inspect/clean prior to transporting on public roads.



**AIS Inspection and Cleaning Recommendations for Residential/Community Use**  
(Boats, Trailers, Barges, Docks, Boat Lifts, and Other Equipment)

- State law requires you to properly clean the boats, trailers, barges, docks, boat lifts, and other equipment prior to transporting them on public roads. The above diagram is provided as a guideline for areas to inspect and clean when transporting a watercraft/trailer. 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.
- Drain water from motor, boat bilges, livewells, and other boating equipment holding water. Drain plugs must be removed from bilges and livewells and all water draining devices must remain open while transporting on a public road. Additionally, you are required to drain water from bait containers. If you want to keep your live bait – you must replace water in bait container with tap or spring water. Place unwanted bait in the trash where it is convenient.
- When pulling boats, trailers, barges, docks, boat lifts, and other equipment for the 2010 boating season, please verify if there are attached zebra mussels. If zebra mussels are found, please contact Brittany Hummel at the MN DNR (see page 4).
- 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, 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, 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 others are not complying with State Law, you are encouraged to contact MN DNR Conservation Officer Jackie Glaser (see page 4).

### 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. 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](http://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](mailto:brittany.hummel@state.mn.us)
- Jay Rendall, MN DNR  
Invasive Species Prevent Coordinator  
(651) 259-5131  
[jay.rendall@state.mn.us](mailto:jay.rendall@state.mn.us)
- Jackie Glaser, MN DNR  
Conservation Officer  
(952) 442-6423  
[jackie.glaser@state.mn.us](mailto:jackie.glaser@state.mn.us)
- Greg Nybeck, LMCD  
Executive Director  
(952) 745-0789  
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