

HC COLA Lake Monitoring Early Detection

September 28, 2017

By Dan Kittilson

➤ **Cabin close-up....a time to inspect boats and water equipment for invasive species.**

Hubbard COLA reminds lake property owners to carefully check boats and trailers, docks and lifts, and all other water-related equipment for invasive species when closing cabins for the season. In the past a number of new zebra mussel confirmations have been initially reported by people making end of the season inspections of docks, boats and boat lifts. The DNR recommends that lake property owners should look on the posts, wheels and underwater support bars of docks and lifts, as well as any parts of boats, pontoons and rafts that may have been submerged in water for an extended period. The DNR further encourages lake property owners to hire DNR-permitted lake service providers to install or remove boats, docks, lifts and other water-related equipment. These providers have attended training on Minnesota's aquatic invasive species laws and many have experience identifying and removing invasive species.

Minnesota law requires that docks and lifts, and other water-related equipment must be out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them in another water body. Anyone transporting a dock or lift from the adjacent shoreline property to another location for storage or repair may need a permit, to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Further information about closing your cabin is available on the DNR website:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/shoreland_owners.html

➤ **HC COLA "Eyes on the Water" Survey 2017**

In early September, we distributed our annual HC COLA's "Eyes on the Water" Survey 2017. The survey was sent to approximately 150 AIS Citizen Watch Volunteers including AIS coordinators. In addition to these volunteers the survey was also sent to all lake association representatives and presidents. The Hubbard COLA survey will again be distributed to all volunteers and COLA leaders toward the end of September. Please remember that the survey will be shared with our HC COLA members numerous times in an effort to increase the response to our survey. Lake shore owners can complete the survey at this time or they can continue to "keep their eyes on the water" and reply at a later date.

You can also participate in the Hubbard COLA Survey on HC COLA's website and Facebook page.

- <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/public-awareness--education.html>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Hubbard-County-Coalition-of-Lake-Associations-171630942993959/>

We further encourage lake association presidents and AIS coordinators to share the survey link with all lake association members and invite their participation in this very important study. The more frequently and more intense AIS monitoring occurs, the more likely a new AIS infestation will be detected. Therefore, to increase our effectiveness for early detection, it is essential for lake associations to expand their "eyes on the water" looking for AIS.

HC COLA Civic Service Team:

- 1) Thank you to all our participating lakes for monitoring during the 2017 season. Our HC COLA Treasurer billed the HC COLA lake association treasurers for the Water Quality Monitoring, Zebra Mussel Veliger Testing and Spiny Water Flea Testing.
 - Please let us know if you have feedback for us to consider for next season's testing.
 - If you know now that your lake association will again be participating in specific tests for 2018, please let us know and we'll start the 2018 season spreadsheet.
 - Please also let us know if there are changes in your lake association personnel who will be conducting the various tests for 2018 so we can get the distribution list(s) updated

- 2) HC COLA provided training to our friends on Hubbard County's Garfield lake and a used plankton net (from the old Hubbard County SWCD net inventory) for their zebra mussel veliger testing this year by citizens. Two veligers were identified by RMB Environmental Laboratories in the June 30th sample. Here is the press release from the DNR and the article in the Park Rapids Enterprise. Ron Ray, Garfield and Sharon Natzel, HC COLA are meeting with friends of Garfield on Sat 9/30 to help educate on zebra mussels. This in turn will help protect other lakes. Nicole Kovar provided support to Ron and Sharon this week as she will be out of town on Sat. She also placed signage at Garfield public access. Bill DonCarlos, Hubbard County AIS Program Coordinator was also a resource prior to his week of vacation.

<http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2017/09/21/zebra-mussel-larvae-confirmed-in-garfield-lake-in-hubbard-county/>

<http://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/news/4332135-zebra-mussel-larvae-found-garfield-lake>

- 3) There are 3 additional old plankton nets that HC COLA currently has for utilization by Hubbard County lakes. Please let us know if your lake is in need of a net for reassignment from the old Hubbard County SWCD net inventory.

HC COLA AIS Operating Team:

Our HC COLA AIS Operating Team will be pulling the AIS Coordinators together in mid-October for a review of what worked well for 2017 & ideas for potential modification for season 2018.

Once Bill DonCarlos has the numbers from the DNR and has been able to formulate the lake-specific reports, we will schedule a review meeting too with the AIS Coordinators.

If there are changes in your personnel in the AIS Coordinator positions on your lake, please let us know so we can adjust the distribution list.

Education Team:

Water-related activities to share information on with your Lake Association, keep informed about and to also participate in potentially:

1. Leech Lake One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) kickoff meeting was held in Walker. HC COLA is participating and represented by Sharon Natzel. HC COLA provided letter on priority issues. Aided in table facilitation at kickoff meeting. Here is the link for you to provide your personal input by October 20th:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/leechlakeriver1W1P

2. MN 25% improvement by 2025 (25x25) – Some members attended the Bemidji & Ely town hall discussions. Please provide your personal input by Oct 5th: <http://survey.mn.gov/s.asp?k=149746720516>
3. The Minnesota 2017 Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Management Showcase was held 9/13 in St. Paul. Sharon attended representing HC COLA. Here is the link to the presentations: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/news/showcase-presentations-0>
4. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) is available for the Proposed Line 3 Pipeline with comment period ending 10/2/17. HC COLA will review & comment as it has done before in the process steps as discussed earlier. You can find the information in order to personally comment here. There is also public meetings taking place now and into Oct on the Certificate of Need and Route Permit with the Administrative Law Judge. <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/line3/>