

“Eyes on the Water”
AIS Citizen Watch Volunteers
Protocols for AIS Lake Monitoring

The Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) encourages you to be “eyes on the water”. The following tips and tactics can help you look for AIS on your lake:

Tips and Tactics to help you look for aquatic invasive plants on your lake:

- Learn to identify AIS at: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/identification.html>
- Search on clear, calm days & use polarized glasses to better see through the water. When something out of the ordinary is observed use a plant rake to identify it as native or non-native invasive.
- Focus inspections on high risk areas such as public accesses, inlets/outlets, highly developed shorelines, private accesses and resorts.
- Conduct meandering boat searches around your lake in a meandering pattern between the shoreline and the maximum rooting depth of 15 to 20 feet. Travels slow enough for spotters to scan vegetation looking for invasive plants such as Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil or Starry Stonewort.
- Cruise shoreline during July & August looking for blooming purple loosestrife and flowering rush.

Tips and Tactics to help you look for invasive animals (invertebrates) on your lake:

- Join HC COLA’s zebra mussel monitoring campaign.
- Conduct adult zebra mussel monitoring using monitoring device/sampler (settlement sampler, PVC tubes or cinder blocks).
 - Suspend sampler from your dock in the shade and near but not resting on the bottom.
 - Place samplers at approximately 8-12 locations spaced around your lake at key locations including public access, inlets/outlets, resorts and high use areas.
 - Place samplers in water in May and retrieve in September or October
 - Examine sampler every other week starting in August.
 - When examining monitoring device, young zebra mussels like to hide so you need to look inside the sampler using a flashlight and hand lens. Young zebra mussels look like adult zebra mussels, only smaller.
 - It is never too late in the season to suspend your sampler. Suspending your sampler in August means that you will be ready to suspend your device earlier the next season.
- Inspect your lakeshore equipment:
 - Look for zebra mussels attached to docks, lifts, boats and swim platforms when you remove your equipment at the end of season.
- Shoreline Searches – Explore Your Shore!
 - Inspect rocks, wood and other objects for attached zebra mussels.
 - Inspect vegetation near your shore for attached zebra mussels
 - Suitable habitat for zebra mussels is commonly hard or rocky lake bottoms.
 - Wade or snorkel in shallower areas.
- When is the best time to search for zebra/quagga mussels?
 - Look for small, current year zebra mussels during August and September.
 - Look for larger, prior-year zebra mussels during May through September.
- **Questions:** Contact your local DNR invasive species specialist at 218-732-8960 or
 - www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html.

An on-survey will be sent in the fall to gather information from your efforts. Thanks for your assistance!