

**ZEBRA / QUAGGA MUSSEL MONITORING**  
**PROTOCOLS FOR USING A MONITORING DEVICE**  
**Hubbard COLA**

**Tips and Tactics for using a monitoring device to sample for Zebra / Quagga Mussels:**

- Monitoring device/sampler are surfaces on which zebra mussels will settle after they complete their larval (veliger) stage. These may include cinder blocks, PVC pipe or settlement samplers.
- Suspend monitoring device from docks at approximately 8-12 locations spaced around the lake.
- Place monitoring device at key locations on your lake including: 1) Near public access, 2) At or near high boat-use areas, 3) Near inlets/outlets, 4) At private accesses (resorts)
- Place samplers in water in May and retrieve in September for annual counts.
- If you want to check the samplers more frequently, you can examine the monitoring device every other week starting in August. Be careful not to disturb settled mussels and return the sampler to original depth.
- Place sampler in shade and near but not resting on the bottom.
- Record the depth of each sampler and the dates that each sampler was placed in the water and retrieved.
- When examining cinder blocks, young zebra mussels like to hide so you need to look inside the block using a flashlight and hand lens. Young zebra mussels look like adult zebra mussels, only smaller.

**Equipment Surveys:**

- 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.

**I may have found an invasive species. What do I do?**

- Document the invasive – take a picture, collect a sample in a plastic bag with tap water & keep cool.
- Record date & location – GPS coordinate, point on map or landmark.
- Report findings and your name and contact information to:
  - Nicole Kovar, DNR AIS Specialist, Park Rapids, 218-732-8960.
  - Park Rapids Area Fisheries Office, 218-732-4153
  - Environmental Services Office, Hubbard County, 218-732-3890

**Questions:**

- Contact your local DNR invasive species specialist at 218-732-8960 or
  - [www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html).
- Contact Hubbard COLA to learn more about zebra mussel identification at:
  - <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/index.html>

