

Tips & Tactics for Opportunistic Searches for Aquatic Invasive Species on Hubbard County Lakes “The Casual Observer”

The Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) would like to encourage our neighbors & visitors to keep an eye out for Aquatic Invasive Species! Help Protect Your Property and Our Public Waters!

What are Opportunistic Searches for AIS?

- Opportunistic searches are casual, non-structured efforts to look for AIS as time permits.
- They can be done at any time by anyone using the lake – even children who are playing on the beach.

Who can be a casual observer?

- Lakeshore property owners!
- Extended families and friends!
- Visiting boaters and anglers!

Why consider doing Opportunistic Searches for AIS.

- Frequent, ongoing visual inspections of hard underwater surfaces and aquatic plants where zebra mussels typically attach will reveal a truly early introduction.
- The more frequently and more intense AIS monitoring occurs, the more likely a new AIS introduction will be detected.
- Review of literature (newspapers and other media outlets) reveals that most zebra mussel populations are discovered casually by lake users or people enjoying the lake.

When can lakeshore owners, visiting boaters and anglers keep an eye out for those naughty invasive plants and animals?

- Any time you are using and enjoying your lake.
- Turn over a few rocks.
- Check plants that have washed ashore on your beach.
- Check your boat, dock & boat lifts when you take them out and put them into your lake.
- Check the access when putting in and taking out your boat.
- Boat, wade or walk along the shoreline of your lake property and look for suspect plants and animals.
- Checking plants that you pull up on your fishing line.
- Visually look through the water while you are on the lake. Polaroid sunglasses help with your visual observation.
- Share the work! Encourage your neighbors and friends to participate in Opportunistic Searches.

Learn to identify Aquatic Invasive Species:

- Conduct AIS identification trainings at lake association meetings.
- AIS identification fact sheets are available on the Hubbard COLA website at:
<http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/identification.html>

Report location of suspected invasive:

- Do not transport any potential AIS
- Note location of potential AIS or mark with GPS coordinate.
- Contact your local AIS specialist
 - 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

Act Responsibly – Do your duty to help protect all Hubbard County Lakes.

Healthy Lakes Depend on You! Think Ahead To Stop The Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species!

Be A Hero! Transport Zero!

ZEBRA MUSSEL MONITORING – PROTOCOLS FOR USING A MONITORING DEVICE

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 ext. 222.
- Check our website or contact Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) to learn more about zebra mussel identification at: <http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/identification.html>

HUBBARD County COLA's "Eyes on the Water" Survey 2018

SAMPLE ONLY – THE ON-LINE VERSION WILL BE USED FOR ACTUAL SURVEYING IN AUTUMN

<http://www.hubbardcolamn.org/public-awareness--education.html>

NOTE: If you think you may have found zebra mussels, immediately contact:

**Nicole Kovar, DNR Northwest Region Invasive Species Specialist, Park Rapids, 218-732-8960 and
DNR Park Rapids Area Fisheries Office, 218-732-4153**

Eric Buitenwerf, Environmental Services Director, Hubbard County, 218-732-3890

Instructions – Please submit this information for the online survey once each year by October 15. See separate PROTOCOLS FOR USING A MONITORING DEVICE for how & when to monitor for zebra mussels.

Year _____ Water Body _____

Monitor: Name (s) _____
Address (on lake) _____
Email _____
Phone _____

Lake Association / Affiliation _____

Side of lake monitored: (**North/South/East /West**) _____

Did you look for AIS along your lakeshore?

Did you also inspect your docks, lifts and swimming platforms at end of season for zebra mussels?

Do you have a zebra mussel monitoring device such as a settlement sampler or PVC pipe?

Do you have a zebra mussel monitoring device at your public access?

Did you search for AIS by driving your boat in a meandering pattern along your shoreline?

Did you inspect your public access searching on both sides of the public access?

Did you search high risk sites for AIS such as inlets / outlets, resorts, PUD's or private access sites?

Did you report zebra mussels found from any of your monitoring activities this year?

Comments:

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) thanks you for your help in protecting our lakes!

