

## CALL FOR ACTION: WALLEYE ANGLERS

**Guests of Resorts / Campgrounds / Short Term Rentals, Lake Visitors, Owners**

### **Walleyes Grow Slower in Lakes with Zebra Mussels & Spiny Water Fleas**

#### **Walleye/Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Facts**

Researchers found that walleyes in Minnesota lakes infested with zebra mussels or spiny water fleas were 12% to 14% smaller after their first summer. (\*[MAISRC – University of MN AIS Research Center – sustaining walleye populations](#))

- Bigger is Better for Young of the Year Walleye survival.
  - Larger fish are less vulnerable to predation and survive Minnesota winters better!
  - Researchers say that zebra mussels and spiny water fleas reduce a lake's zooplankton, an important food source for young walleyes.



- Zebra mussels double water clarity in Big Winnie: DNR calls meeting to talk about the future of the walleye fishery! Gerry Albert, DNR Fisheries Manager & experts are seeing fewer small walleyes in the big lake.
- This research is bad news for anglers and tourists looking for the elusive walleye on their favorite lake in Hubbard County or throughout Minnesota.
- Why should we care about the impact of AIS on walleye?
  - People want to be where the water is clean, healthy and the fishing is excellent.
  - First year growth is associated with future walleye abundance!
  - Park Rapids has a rich history of clean lakes and excellent walleye fishing.

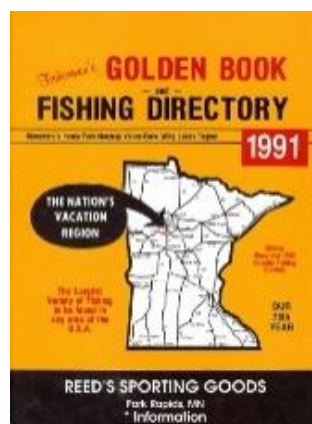
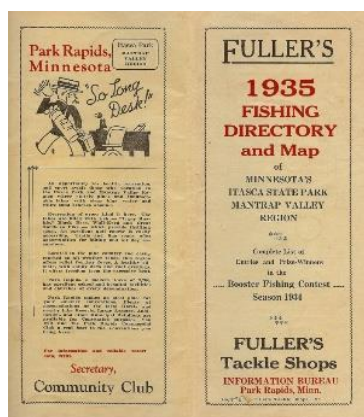
**What is a veliger?** They are microscopic, free-living larvae better known as baby zebra mussels! So, what's the big deal about draining live wells, bait buckets, bilge pumps and ballast bags? The veligers are the big concern! Zebra mussels are ruthless invaders. The future of walleye fishing depends on stopping the spread of AIS.

#### **What is the role of Resorts / Campgrounds / Short Term Rentals and their Guests / Owners?**

- Resorts / Campgrounds / Short Term Rentals are part of our "Eyes on the Water" where preventing the spread of AIS is a shared responsibility!
- We call on the business owners, guests and lake visitors to help keep your MN lakes free of AIS.
- A Shared Resource & Responsibility – Anglers have Key Role in AIS Prevention!

- Education for Out of State guests/anglers on AIS prevention is a special concern and opportunity!
- Everyone is Responsible for Protecting the area Lakes and Rivers!
  - Inspect, clean, and drain your boat, motor, live wells, bilge pump and ballast bags
  - Drain bait containers and refill with bottled or tap water for live bait. Trash unwanted bait properly.
  - Wipe fishing lines, reels, drained bait containers and livewells to stop the spread of spiny water flea
  - Remove vegetation and mud from watercraft, anchors and trailer.
  - Use the MN DNR Courtesy Decontamination Stations
    - [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/watercraft\\_inspect/courtesydecon.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/watercraft_inspect/courtesydecon.html)

## Do your part to Halt the Silent Invasion of Aquatic Invasive Species!



*Park Rapids has a rich history of clean lakes and excellent walleye fishing!*

Ah, the sounds of the lake, a place to fish, swim, boat and watch wildlife. Lakes are Minnesota treasurers & we need to stop invasive species from threatening our precious outdoor heritage!



<https://www.hubbardcolumn.org/eyes-on-the-water---early-detection.html>

<https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/stopspiny>

