

ZEBRA MUSSELS

ZEBRA MUSSEL WARNING

Nearby Deer Lake reported significant increases in zebra mussels attached to docks, boats, plants, and rocks in the fall of 2020. This expansion occurred after a single zebra mussel was discovered in Deer Lake late in 2016. Few observations occurred until this past fall. It is not known if expansion occurred from the original discovery, or if repeated introductions occurred. Other nearby waterbodies with zebra mussels present include Bass Lake and the St. Croix River in St. Croix County and the McKenzie chain in Burnett County. Wisconsin DNR lists 282 water bodies as infested with zebra mussels (<https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/BySpecies.aspx>). The Minnesota list includes 530 entries (<https://www.eddmaps.org/midwest/tools/infestedwaters/>). Undrained ballast tanks of wakeboard boats have been found to readily carry water with live zebra mussel larvae – called veligers (<https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/news/wakeboards>).

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Follow recommended measures to prevent aquatic invasive species introduction.

This is also the law in Wisconsin:

INSPECT boats, trailers, and equipment

REMOVE all attached aquatic plants and animals

DRAIN all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment

NEVER MOVE plants or live fish away from a water body

If you have been in water infested with zebra mussels, take extra precautions:

DECONTAMINATE YOUR BOAT, TRAILER, AND INTERNAL COMPARTMENTS

Wait at least 5 days before you go to another lake. Be sure all internal compartments are dry.

Use a mild bleach solution (2 TBLS per gallon of water) to spray external surfaces, and compartments like live wells, ballast tanks, and bilge areas. Wait 10 minutes for effective removal of zebra mussels. Rinse internal compartments with fresh water.

If hot water is available, spray each area with 140 degree F water for 10 seconds, or spray each area and internal compartments with 120 degree F water and wait at least 2 minutes.



PREVENT THE SPREAD OF **INVASIVE SPECIES** IT'S THE LAW

PENALTIES MAY EXCEED \$2000

Before launching and before leaving **YOU MUST:**

- ✓ **INSPECT** boats, trailers, and equipment.
- ✓ **REMOVE** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment.
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.*



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the spread of invasive species, it's the law



*Limited exceptions apply. Visit WWW.DNR.WI.GOV and search for "BAIT LAWS."