



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Cass County Tournament Anglers (March 2011)



Zebra mussels have not been found in Cass County lakes to date. However, DNR estimates Cass County lakes, especially Leech Lake, to be at a high risk for introduction. Zebra mussels compete with young fish for food, kill native clams, clog boat and other lake water intake pipes, foul beaches, and kill suspended plants. They filter nutrients from the water that are vital to the food chain and are very detrimental to the long term health of the fishery. Introduction of this and other invasive species into one of these waters will eventually spread to others. Zebra mussel larvae (veligers) are microscopic and cannot be seen in the water, so precautions must be taken even if visible signs are not apparent. **PLEASE DO YOUR PART** to take all possible steps to curb the spread of zebra mussels!

Here are some reminders regarding invasive species:

- As of July 1, 2010, Minnesota law requires boaters to remove the drain plug and drain all water from the boat (including livewells, baitwells and bilges). The plug must remain out while the boat is transported on a public road.
- It is **illegal** to transport any aquatic plants or prohibited invasive species on boats or trailers on public roads.
- It is **illegal** to launch or attempt to launch a boat/trailer with aquatic plants or prohibited invasive species (e.g. zebra mussel, New Zealand mudsnail) attached.
- It is **illegal** to transport water from infested waters without a permit.
- At zebra mussel or spiny water flea infested waters, water **must** be drained from bait buckets, livewells, baitwells, bilges (by removing drain plug), and any other area of a boat containing water.
- It is **illegal** to harvest bait at infested waters, except by permit for commercial minnow dealers.
- Transporting prohibited invasive species in Minnesota is subject to a **\$250 civil penalty**, launching is subject to **\$500 to \$1000 civil penalties**.
- Use **TIP** line to report violations: **1-800-652-9093**

Please take these steps to minimize the spread of invasive species:

- ⇒ **INSPECT** and **REMOVE** aquatic plants & animals before entering or leaving the access.
- ⇒ **DRAIN** water before leaving the access.
- ⇒ **DISPOSE** of unwanted live bait in the trash, **NOT** in the water or on land.
- ⇒ **SPRAY** and **RINSE** boats, or **DRY** boats for 5 to 12 days before entering another body of water.
- ⇒ A **solution of 10% bleach** will kill any invasive species the remain in areas of the boat that cannot be completely drained.



Protect Your Waters Use information below to obtain more information:

- VISIT www.ProtectYourWaters.net
- CALL DNR Invasive Species Program Office in Itasca State Park at 218-699-7293

For a full list of infested waters in Minnesota, please visit: www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/

Mille Lacs Lake, Lake Minnetonka and Gull Lake are a few of the popular lakes already infested with zebra mussels. Please be especially diligent in taking the necessary preventative steps if you have been on these waters.