

Zebra Mussel Update

(July 15, 2018)

OK Bay Lakers, here's the latest on our Zebra Mussel situation. In addition to the single adult Zebra Mussel (ZM) found in Bay Lake on June 23 near the Second Narrows, another was found last week near the north end of Isle of Pines. Several ZM veligers (microscopic pre-shell growth) have been found by the DNR water samples as well. With this evidence, the DNR has designated Bay Lake as ZM infested.

Little will change immediately. A new sign will appear on the public access, and the lake will be listed in various official documents as infested. During the week of July 16, the DNR will issue a press release to regional media outlets; and it's likely there will be mention in statewide news.

We are working with others in the state to understand if or when a large infestation will become present. It is unlikely we will see much ZM presence this year or next, although we don't know that for certain.

With the help of cabin owners, their families and guests, we want to learn if any large groupings of ZM's are present. It's possible they might be treated or eradicated. Therefore, it could be critical that all Bay Lakers inspect dock posts, lifts, and boats. Please let me know immediately of anything suspicious (if dock poles or lift legs feel like light sandpaper or ZM's are visible). If adult ZM's and veligers are found throughout the lake, treatment becomes impractical and ineffective, but the ZM battle is only one part of the AIS war.

A number of other, even more damaging AI species threaten MN lakes, including ours. We will continue our boat inspection program, continue to test our waters, and continue to support efforts by other organizations working to solve the AIS problem.

We need not assume all is lost. We will continue to be vigilant, share ways to live with our new pests if they become present in large numbers and look forward to your continued support, both financial and as volunteers.

Of course none of this is good news. However, Bay remains a beautiful lake and we all have much to be grateful for here in our slice of Northern Minnesota heaven.

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For DNR info on

ZM's: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramusel/index.html>

[Bay Lake Points of Reference Map](#)