

Important Message for all that live on and use

Onota & Pontoosuc Lake, and Richmond Pond

Fall is upon us.....Are you getting ready to remove your boat and/or dock? *Be on the lookout for invasive zebra mussels. Lake users like you can help curb the spread of these aggressive invaders.*

Identifying Invasive Mussels



The most obvious identifying feature of zebra and quagga mussels are their byssal threads. Byssal threads allow invasive mussels to adhere themselves to firm surfaces and avoid being swept away by water movement.

Photo Credit: Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

Shells are “D” shaped, and typically have dark and light stripes.

Zebra mussels are generally small and may be up to 2 inches in length. However, most zebra mussels are less than 1 inch long.

Mussels tend to grow in clusters, which may be easier to spot than individual mussels.

Zebra mussel larvae are called veligers and are not visible to the naked eye. Practice ‘Clean/Drain/Dry’ to ensure these larvae don’t survive.

If you believe you have identified zebra mussels in either lake or on parts of your boat or dock system, **alert the city’s lake manager.** Avoid taking samples or removing any mussels from the water until you have received guidance or instruction.

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