

July 9, 2022 | We are sharing this post from the Prior Lake Association! Please make note!

## DNR Courtesy Warning - Hydraulic Jets

Greetings members and friends of the PLA. We hope you had a great 4th of July weekend!

We received a courtesy heads up from the DNR regarding the use of hydraulic jets (AKA "Auqa Thrusters", "blowers", etc.) on Prior Lake. Late last month, a DNR officer patrolled Prior Lake and documented ALL units they consider in violation.

To be clear, the DNR has no problem with the proper use of Hydraulic Jets which means they are pointed toward the lake surface to keep debris away from a dock and swimming area.

However, the DNR informed us they will be back on Prior Lake later this month to issue citations (with hefty fines) to anyone found using a hydraulic jet to disturb the lake bottom or uproot plants (That's a no-no). The officer was very clear that he has no desire to issue citations and hefty fines. Instead, he would rather enlist our help getting the word out to give shore owners time to get their hydraulic jet(s) in compliance to avoid the citation.



Caution about hydraulic jets

# Preserve the lake



## Don't muddy the water

Devices advertised to blast away debris from a shoreline can cause problems. These devices, like the hydraulic jet seen above, stir up the lake bottom and reduce water clarity. Turbid, muddy water can harm fish and creates a nuisance for people using the lake.



**Fish** have difficulty spawning in dirty water.

**People** see uprooted aquatic plants washed up on shore or floating around the lake. They see water that is turbid and muddy.

**You** could get a citation for excavating the lake bottom by using one of these devices.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone to leave lake bottoms intact. For details on how these devices can impact fish, water clarity and aquatic plants, see the other side of this sheet.

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### Impacts to fish

Devices that stir up the lake bottom can cause problems for fish. Nearby fish may abandon nesting areas, which can leave eggs vulnerable to being eaten. Sediment can cover fish eggs, reducing hatching success and making it more difficult for fish to find food to eat by making it harder for them to see prey. Re-suspended sediment ultimately can cause fish to abandon otherwise acceptable habitat.

### Impacts to water clarity

The impacts these devices can have on water clarity is obvious. Cloudy, turbid water reduces everyone's enjoyment of the lake. Wind and waves can move sediments re-suspended by these devices to shoreline areas located down wind.

### Aquatic plants

Aquatic plants can be uprooted by the operation of these devices. Aquatic plants stabilize the lake bottom, protect shorelines from erosion, provide nursery habitat for young fish and ambush cover for game species. When aquatic plants are removed to provide property owner access they must be removed from the lake so they do not become a problem for shoreline property owners or other people using the lake. For all of the reasons explained in this fact sheet, state aquatic plant management rules prohibit the control of aquatic plants with hydraulic jets.



This photo shows a device, at right, that has caused damage to a lake bottom.

### For more information

Contact your local aquatic habitat specialist or area hydrologist. For information on legal methods for aquatic plant management, see [www.mndnr.gov/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html](http://www.mndnr.gov/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html) or call DNR Fisheries at 651-259-5221, or the DNR Information Center at 651-296-6157.

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For more information:

1. [Click here for the official guidelines from the DNR](#)

2. Below is a 2 page sheet the DNR asked us to share. You may click on the images to enlarge in a browser:

We don't have an exact date when the DNR will be patrolling Prior Lake, but it will be sometime the second half of July so please take advantage of the courtesy heads up to avoid a potential fine.

-PLA Board