

Zebra mussels confirmed in Spring Lake, Scott County

The Minnesota DNR has confirmed a report of zebra mussels in Spring Lake, near the city of Prior Lake in Scott County.

An adult zebra mussel was found attached to a plant stem during a curly-leaf pondweed survey conducted by Blue Water Science at the end of April 2022. Spring Lake flows into Prior Lake, where zebra mussels were confirmed in 2009.



The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District is working with the DNR, Spring Lake Association, and Scott County to determine next steps regarding zebra mussels in Spring Lake.

Zebra mussels can compete with native species for food and habitat, cut the feet of swimmers, reduce the performance of boat motors, and cause expensive damage to water intake pipes.

What can you do?

Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires boaters and anglers to:

- **Clean** watercraft and trailers of aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species,
- **Drain** all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport, and
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.

Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving boats or equipment to another waterbody:

- **Spray** with high-pressure water.
- **Rinse** with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- **Dry** for at least five days.

People should contact a Minnesota DNR aquatic invasive species specialist (mndnr.gov/Invasives/AIS/Contacts.html) if they think they have found zebra mussels or any other invasive species.

More information is available on the Aquatic Invasive Species page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/ais).