



Plan to attend the Annual FILIA meeting June 20 from 9:00am – 11:00am

The annual association meeting is held at Hazelton Town Hall, which is 2 miles south of Tame Fish Lake Rd / Hwy 11. You do not have to be a paid member to attend.

We have guest speakers who cover information pertinent to lake owners. Other activities, to name just a few: walleye re-stocking updates (when available), attendees can discuss concerns and happenings around the lake, vote for board association member when a board member’s term is expired, ACLARA updates, AIS updates, water clarity, etc.



This year our speaker will be Sheriff Dan Guida, who was elected in 2019 as the Aitkin County Sheriff. Guida has over 24 years of experience with Aitkin County, serving in the positions of deputy, boat and water recreational officer, patrol sergeant and investigator.

Guest speakers usually present at the start of the meeting. Coffee and pastries or cookies are provided. This is a great time to meet your neighbors and be involved with the lake.

New Board Member Opening

Greg Anderson has stepped down, so we have a board member opening. Board members are elected, they serve a 3-year term, and it is a voluntary position. The board members meet twice a year. Thank you, Greg, for your many hours of involvement with the lake and the association!



**New on the website:
How to locate and identify zebra mussels**

[Click here](#) for a printable report, found on your website. The DNR Invasive Species Specialist is Tim Plude at 218-203-4354.



See article at end of newsletter, Caring About the Waters

National Weather Service and the Farm Island Lake Waterspout

The National Weather Service added the August 26, 2019 waterspout to their official database, along with pictures and description. <https://www.weather.gov/dlh/August262019FarmIslandLakeWaterspout>

Communication Method to Lake Property Owners

In an effort to keep you updated with FILIA news and happenings, association members will periodically receive emails with current and pertinent information. Please include your email when mailing in your application so you can receive FILIA emails throughout the year, or you can email your email address to FILIALake@gmail.com. The emailed newsletters offer a richer experience, more up-to-date information and cost nothing.

Membership

We have 17 paid members as of March 1, 2020. A membership application form can be found on our website and is also included with this mailing, and you can pay online. Yearly dues are \$25 and membership is voluntary. Be sure to include your email address on the application so you can receive our newsletters.

17 members!



- FILIA is a non-profit organization.
- Last year we had 234 paid members – 63% of property owners.

Online Dues Payment

You can pay your dues online using your credit card. There is a \$1.15 fee that goes directly to Square.com, the app that provides the secure online payment service. Postage is now 55 cents. It is a simple, safe and fast way to use your credit card so you can get those credit card points and rewards.

AIS Funding

Additional monies can be paid toward the Aquatic Invasive Species Fund (AIS) when you mail in your application or pay online with your due's payment.

Walleye Electro-fish Survey Results Fall 2019

The DNR met with FILIA board members Cindy Chuhanic, Dennis Kraimer and Cheryl McDonough, along with association member Kevin McDonough, to discuss their 2019 Fall electro-fish assessment, which was done the evening of October 1, 2019. Electro-fishing is when they temporarily stun the fish so they can assess how well the fish are reproducing. On Farm Island this is performed in 6 sites around the lake.

Based on their findings, on October 8th the DNR stocked a total of 425 lbs. of fingerlings, for a total of about 12,000 fish. These fingerlings, which came from the Brainerd area, are of the same strain as the fry stocked in spring, and satisfies the need to stock a lake with the appropriate strain of fish.

The DNR will continue to monitor walleye population using electroshock and gillnetting, and stocking walleye fries or fingerlings in Farm Island Lake every year. See Gillnet Catch Rates and electrofishing reports on the FILIA website. ● All walleye from 16-19" in length must be immediately released.

2020 DNR Boating and Fishing Guides are on our Website

Check it out for Personal Watercraft (Jet Ski) regulations, such as time-of-day usage, age restrictions; life jacket information, water navigation, paddling safety, scuba diving safety, when an aquatic plant management permit is not needed, rescue breathing, etc. On our website under [Useful Information](#).

Minnesota law requires water recreationists to:

- Clean watercraft of all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash and dispose of bait water.
- Dry docks, lifts, swim rafts and other equipment for at least 21 days before placing equipment into another water body.

For more information on the Minnesota law, which holds true whether or not a lake is listed as infested – go to this online link. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html>

Be sure to inform your visitors and neighbors of this important Minnesota regulation, which is also important and necessary to keep our lake clean and free of invasive species

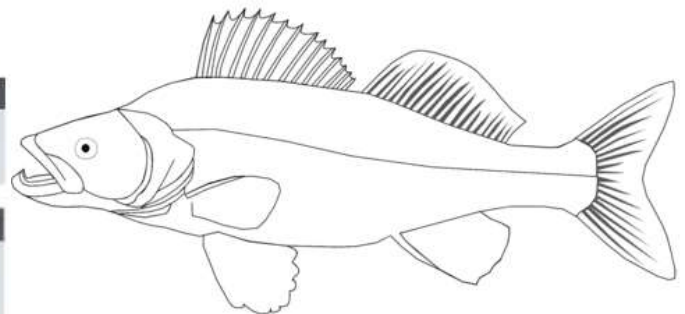
Video: How to Clean, Drain and Dry Your Watercraft

This 2.50 minute-long video was made for Texas lakes, but it is informative and entertaining.



2020 Fishing Season Opener Dates

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	ZONE AND ANGLING POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Northern pike	May 9, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	North-central Zone: 10 (not more than 2 over 26". All from 22-26" must be immediately released.)
SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	POSSESSION LIMIT (SIZE)
Walleye and sauger	May 9, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	6 combined total (not more than 1 walleye over 20" in possession)
FARM ISLAND LAKE (Aitkin County) Walleye: all from 16-19" must be immediately released.		
Largemouth bass—Statewide (except Northeast Zone)	May 9 - 22	Catch-and-release only
	May 23, 2020 - Feb. 28, 2021	6 combined total largemouth or smallmouth bass



Fishing regulations are also on our [website](#) and can be found at the [DNR website](#).



NOW HIRING AIS WATERCRAFT INSPECTORS

Looking for a summer job that lets you enjoy the outdoors? We're hiring Aquatic Invasive Species Watercraft Inspectors!

JOB FAIRS

If you're interested in learning more, stop by one of our upcoming job fairs:

March 24, 10am - noon
April 7, 10am - noon

Aitkin CareerForce Center
20 Third Street NE
Aitkin, MN 56431

Can't make it to the job fair? Apply online at www.penmac.com.

Penmac

STAFFING

607 Washington Street, Brainerd, MN 56401
218-824-9675 • www.penmac.com



EOE



There were no zebra mussels found in Farm Island Lake. They have been found in Bay Lake and Big Pine, so they are a near and present threat to Farm Island Lake. See article below entitled: Caring about the waters.

The DNR AIS program addresses invasive species in Minnesota, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, zebra mussel, spiny water flea and starry stonewort. Efforts in this area include working to prevent further spread and to manage impacts from invasive populations. More information can be found on the DNR website and on our website:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/program-info.html> for more facts.

Note: When government, local agency and county information is included we are serving as the messenger to keep you informed of their activities on Farm Island Lake.

Financial Reports are on our Website, including past reports, under [Administrative](#).



The Aitkin Public Library is a branch of the East Central Public Library system. FILIA is branching out (no pun intended) and including Aitkin area information in the newsletters and website. See more at Useful Information below.

Aitkin Public Library

Located at: 110 1st Ave. NE Aitkin, MN 56431

Charles Lindbergh: Lucky Lindy with Arn Kind – Monday
- Mar. 9th - 6pm

TapleTOP Tuesday – Tuesday – March 10th – 4pm

***Steampunk Jewelry Workshop** - Tuesday - March 31st - 6pm

AARP Tax Help – Thursdays – March 5 to April 9 – 10:30am

Storytime – Thursdays - March 12 to March 26 - 10:30am

***1-on-1 Computer Assistance**- Tuesdays at 11am & 11:45am
-No assistance on March 24th.



*Registration Required on our events calendar at <http://ecrl.evanced.info/signup/Calendar>
Select Aitkin in the Locations section.

Ice-over/ice-in date: Dec 2, 2019

Reports of ice thickness range from 18-24 inches. The snow is starting to melt and the lake is turning gray—a sign of spring—along with the trumpeter swans that are gathering at the river.

Found last year – paddle board paddle by southwest shoreline. Reply to this email to identify and claim it.

CHASING WILDLIFE AND WATERFOWL IS ILLEGAL

Not sure what else needs to be said about harassment of loons and other lake animals or wildlife. DO NOT bully animals, or people. It's not nice - and harassing wildlife is illegal.



Last year I counted at least 6 loon chicks.



The **Blue Fire Number**, which is your address number, is used by **emergency responders** to locate your property. This could save your life or property. If you are in an association you need your own number, placed by your individual house, so you can quickly be located. To order, contact the Aitkin County Highway Department 218-927-3741. In an emergency, be able to give detailed directions on how to reach you. Write it down, and post it so everyone at your house can see it.

River otters on the lake. Photo taken 11/16/2019. They were headed away from the north side of Farm Island, along the edge of open water.



FILIA Website <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia>

The FILIA website contains useful information – such as:

- FILIA Membership Application Form
 - List of Members, current and past
 - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) information
 - Contact information - Board of Directors and Shore Captains
 - Newsletters and other reports
 - Financial Reports, current and past
 - DNR Boating & Fishing Guides
 - Water Clarity Readings and Ice-Out Dates
 - Map of Farm Island Lake
 - How to identify zebra mussels
 - Links to other websites, such as the DNR, Aitkin County, etc.
- much more on the website!



Is there information that you would like included in your newsletter or on the website? Send an email to let us know.



Website Trivia

- There have been 4,290 visitors on the FILIA website since inception. **Close to 1,000 visited last year.**
- Your website is hosted, **FREE**, on WIX.com. In order to be free, “wixsite” has to be included as part of the FILIA web name.
- Dues can be paid on the website.

2020 Calendar of Events

*Spring Board Meeting	Saturday, May 2, 9:00am	The Joint Tavern & Eatery
Annual Association Meeting	Saturday, June 20, 9:00am	Hazelton Town Hall
4th of July Boat Parade	Saturday, July 4, Noon	FIL South Public Access
*Fall Board Meeting	Monday, Sept 7, 9:00am	The Joint Tavern & Eatery

Hazelton Town Hall is located on east side of US Hwy 169, a few miles south of Tame Fish Lake Rd.
**Only board members attend the Board Meetings.*

The annual meeting is always held the 3rd Saturday in June each year.

See you this summer!

Sincerely,
Cheryl McDonough
FILIA Treasurer/Secretary
FILIALake@gmail.com
Your questions and comments are welcome.

FILIA
PO Box 135
Aitkin, MN 56431
<https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia>

Website Site Map

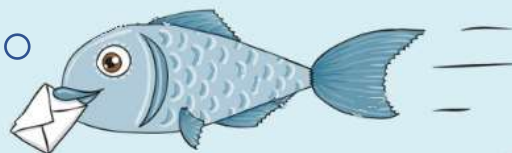
- [Home](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Online Store](#)
- [Newsletters/Lake Info](#)
- [Contact/Calendar](#)
- [Local Events](#) **New on the website**
- [Administrative](#)
- [Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Aquatic Invasive Species](#)
- [Score Your Shore](#)
- [How to identify zebra mussels](#) **New on the website**
- [Useful Info](#)
- [Boating & Fishing Regulations](#)
- [DNR Permitted Lake Service Providers](#)
- [History](#)

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

The Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center brings together a wide variety of researchers, managers, and stakeholders to identify research priorities, conduct research, and implement solutions. They publish an informative newsletter and offer seminars. [Click here](#) to check out their website.



Be sure FILIA has your current email address so you receive the newsletters and important updates.



FILIA Mission Statement

The mission of the Farm Island Lake Improvement Association is to:

- 1) Promote the safety and common good of the Farm Island Lake (FIL) community.
- 2) Improve and preserve the quality of the land and water in the FIL area for its members, the community and future generations.

Some examples of how we strive to meet our mission are:

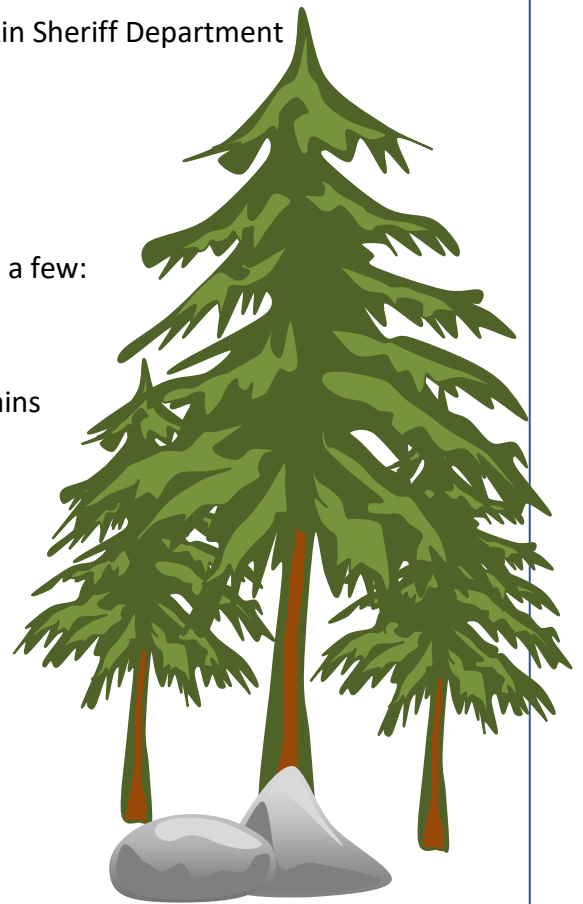
- Work with DNR, ACLARA and Aitkin Soil and Water Department on Invasive Species Prevention, includes efforts to monitor public accesses
- Provide opportunities (Farm Island Lake Boat Parade, annual meeting, AIS updates, etc.) for members to get to know each other. This will foster a safer community setting.
- Improve boating safety via the lake buoys
- Provide an opportunity for members to give feedback to the DNR on issues such as walleye slot limits, invasive species, and boat access
- Provide members feedback on safety issues from the Aitkin Sheriff Department
- Loon nesting program
- Water quality monitoring
- Lake weed control
- Improve walleye spawning area

The FILIA [website](#) contains useful information – to name just a few:

- * Aitkin County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) reports
- * [FILIA Membership Application Form](#)
- * Contact information - Board of Directors and Shore Captains
- * Financial Reports
- * Previous Newsletters and other reports
- * Map of Farm Island Lake
- * Lake information, i.e. Lake clarity, ice out dates
- * Contact information for (and many more)
 - Aitkin County Government
 - MN DNR
 - Aitkin County Sheriff
 - Minnesota Waters home page

Check it out at <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia>

Among other activities, we have been working closely with the DNR, ACLARA, Aitkin County Soil & Water, etc. to help prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) infestation



Useful Information

This contact information is also on your website at <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia/useful-links>

Aitkin County Government

For information such as Aitkin County building codes

www.co.aitkin.mn.us

Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida

(218) 927-7435 Or 911

[Sheriff department](#)

MN DNR

For MN Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) lake info etc.

(651) 296-6157

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>

DNR Invasive Species Specialist Tim Plude

(218) 203-4354

DNR fishing regulations for Farm Island:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id=01015900>

Minnesota Waters home page

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/>

Aitkin Chamber of Commerce for area travel and events

www.aitkin.com

Aitkin County Health & Human Services

(218) 927-7200

MN DNR Boating Guide

[Minnesota Boating Guide](#)

MN DNR Fishing Guide

[Minnesota Fishing Guide](#)

MN DNR depth map

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/data/lakemaps/b0002011.pdf>

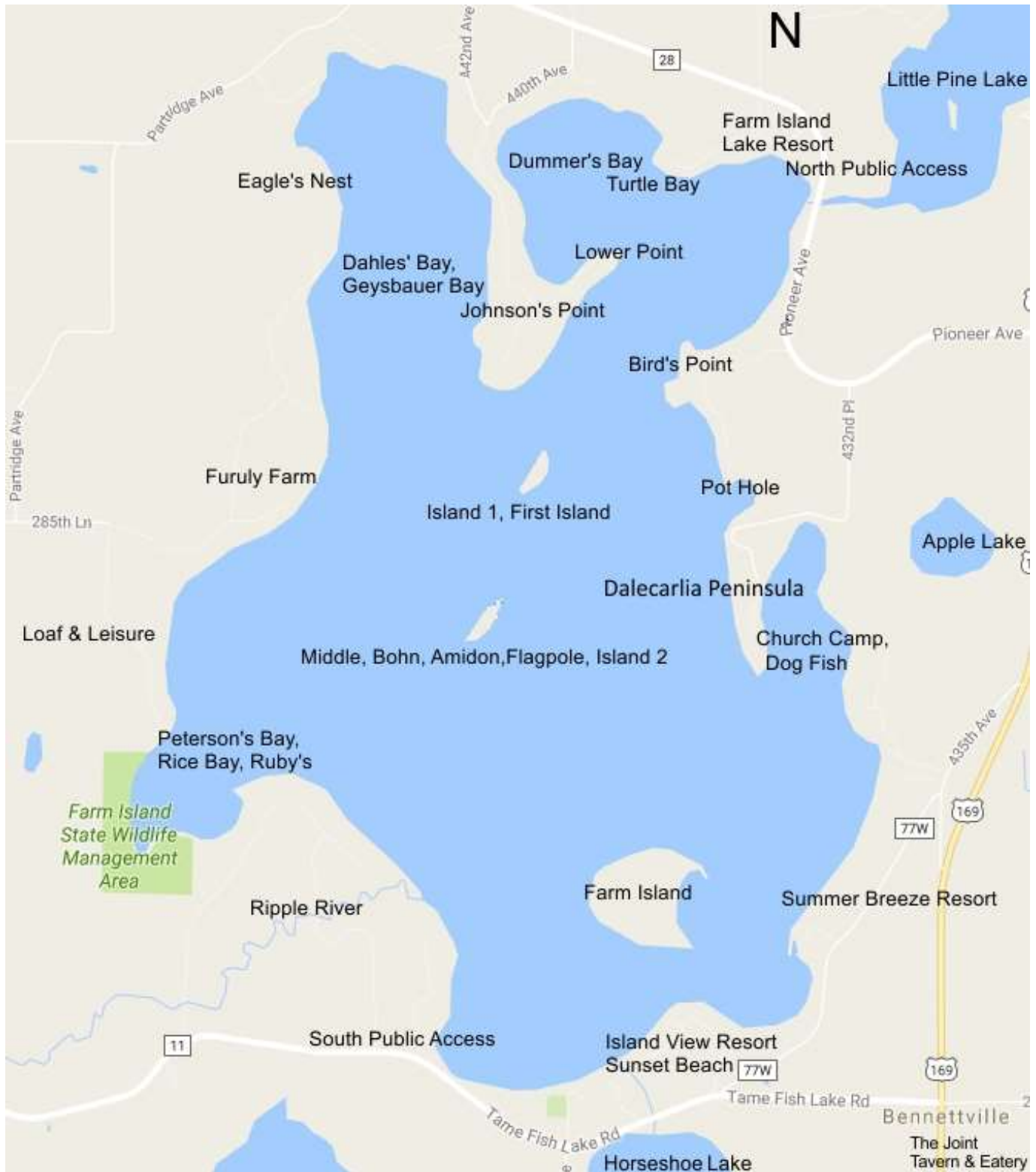
Aitkin Area DNR Focus on Fisheries Newsletters

[Click here to view all of the DNR area fisheries newsletters.](#)

DNR List of Permitted Lake Service Providers

Lake service providers who install and remove docks and lifts for hire are required by the DNR to be trained and have a permit. Use the link below and select Aitkin or other county for a list of permitted lake service providers. The list appears at bottom of the web page.

https://webapps11.dnr.state.mn.us/aquatic_invasive_species_training/lake_service_provider_permit_s/public_website_list



This map is on your [FILIA website](#) in a more printable format, with the most up-to-date information.

Below is a printable version of Clean In Clean Out to post where everyone can see it. This information is also on your website.

Clean In Clean Out

When boating or fishing in Minnesota, protect your waters by following state aquatic invasive species laws.

1. **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.

2. **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) *and* drain bilge, live well and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. **Keep drain plugs out** and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/q_and_a_drain_plug_law_20110609.pdf

3. **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

KNOW THE LAW: You may not...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Spray, rinse, dry — 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 to another waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters:

- **Spray** with high-pressure water
- **Rinse** with very hot water*
- **Dry** for at least 5 days

Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.

Transport fish on ice — be prepared, bring a cooler.

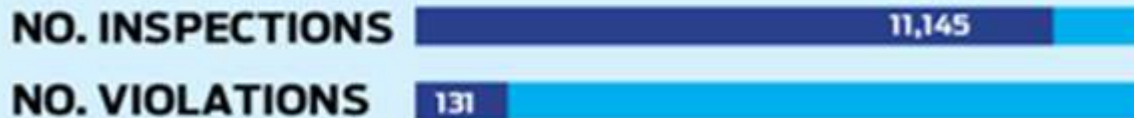
* These water temperatures will kill zebra mussels and some other AIS: 120°F for at least 2 minutes; or 140°F for at least 10 seconds

Report suspicious infestations

If you suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, take a photo and note the location, or save a specimen and report it to a local [DNR invasive species contact](#).

More information at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/preventspread_watercraft.html

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES 2019 SUMMARY



INSPECTIONS WERE CONDUCTED ON 18 LAKES IN AITKIN COUNTY

Aitkin Independent Age article published Jan 29, 2020 by Jeanne Schram

Caring about the waters

https://www.messagemedia.co/aitkin/outdoors/caring-about-the-waters/article_675a9f10-42e2-11ea-9154-0b083b0c4427.html

The fight against the spread of aquatic invasive species is making headway. According to data from 2019, people using lakes in Aitkin County care about the quality of the waters.

Based on surveys at 18 lakes, fishermen and recreationalists took care of their equipment to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species to the tune of nearly 99% compliance.

Last year, the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District conducted 11,145 inspections on the following lakes: Horseshoe, Farm Island, Minnewawa, Big Sandy, Cedar, Clear, Hammal, Hanging Kettle, Ripple, Round, Round near Garrison, Sugar, Wilkins, Lone, Long, Mille Lacs and Spirit. Inspections were done on boat lifts, docks, canoes, kayaks, fishing boats, Jon boats, personal watercraft, pontoons, runabouts, sailboats and wakeboard boats.

“The lakes selected were mostly the larger and more popular lakes,” said Steve Hughes, district manager of the Aitkin County SWCD.

The equipment was checked for drain plugs in upon arrival; sending boaters away to drain water; plants, animals, water and mud; and zebra mussels.

Notably, there were no violations on Hammal Lake, Hanging Kettle Lake or Sugar Lake. Clear Lake and Round Lake had only one violation each.

The most violations were recorded at Farm Island Lake and Big Sandy, also where the highest number of inspections were performed, 2,521 and 2,294 respectively.

Farm Island had 20 violations, 16 for having drain plugs in and four for plants, animals, water or mud on equipment. At Big Sandy, 25 people had drain plugs in and seven had plants, animals or mud on equipment. **No zebra mussels were found in inspections.**

“I am not really surprised at the 99% compliance rate,” said Hughes. “We have had a slow improvement in compliance each year since we started in 2015. I think we can assume that the boaters are doing a good job in general, so all the lakes and rivers benefit.”

Hughes said changes in 2020 are increased inspections, “and we plan to work with more owners of docks and boat lifts,” he added.

Hughes presented the survey data to the Aitkin County Board Jan. 28.

THE FIGHT

In September 2015, the Minnesota Legislature allotted approximately \$10 million to distribute to counties that submitted an application and demonstrated a need for the prevention and identification of AIS in their lakes.

Aitkin County receives \$270,000 annually based on the number of lakes with public accesses and the number of parking spaces at those accesses.

Aitkin County established the AIS Committee to run the program and oversee the budget. The county hires trained level one inspectors to check boats and trailers and other water-related equipment for AIS and level two inspectors operate decontamination units.

“We began implementing our plan in the spring of 2015 and have concentrated on inspections and public education,” said Aitkin County Commissioner Mark Wedel, a member of the committee. “The program has expanded from the inspection of watercraft to now include both docks and boat lifts. We started the boat inspections at 15 county lakes and have expanded that to include 18 as well as several other lakes on a random basis.

“We have observed that compliance rates have increased from 96% to almost 99%,” Wedel continued. “We have taken a number of education methods to bring awareness to the seriousness of preventing contamination into area lakes and rivers. Future plans are to intensify existing efforts and, dependent on state funding, to increase the number of inspectors and education efforts.”

As always, stopping the spread of invasive species to other lakes and rivers, protects habitat for native species. Overall, lake and river health is better without invasive species. Healthy lakes and rivers benefit fish, wildlife and people. Remember, “Clean, Drain, Dry and Dispose.”