

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter February 2024



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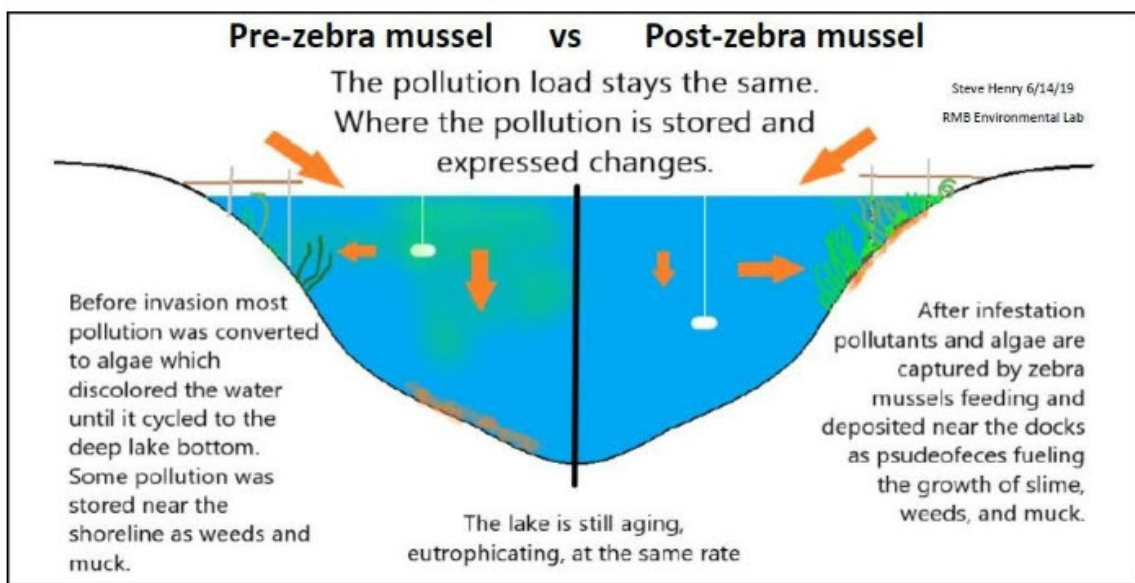
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Do Zebra Mussels Make Lakes Clearer?

James Allen Daily Journal Media, Fergus Falls Journal

While clearer lakes and bodies of water may seem like a good thing, in reality it is not when it comes to invasive species like the zebra mussel.

Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Specialist Spencer McGrew says zebra mussels are making the water clearer but not necessarily cleaner.

A common myth has been that with the increased water clarity, some species of fish are actually getting bigger. McGrew said that is not really true, stating some species of fish are simply adapting better than others.

[Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist](#)

[MORE](#)

[Water Quality Distorted by Zebra Mussels](#)

OTC COLA 2023 Review

OTC COLA completed another successful year in 2023. The year was punctuated by the enthusiastic participation of its Members in the programs, events and activities hosted and sponsored by COLA.

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Vansteenburgh Speaks At Network Battle Lake

On November 16, 2023 Jeff Vansteenburgh, OTC COLA Environmental Director, spoke to Network Battle Lake on the COLA's lake sampling program. The presentation dealt with sampling equipment, procedures and the interpretation of the sampling results. There was a question and answer period concerning water quality and the environment.

Network Battle Lake is a group open to anyone interested in meeting people in the community and providing volunteers to various community activities

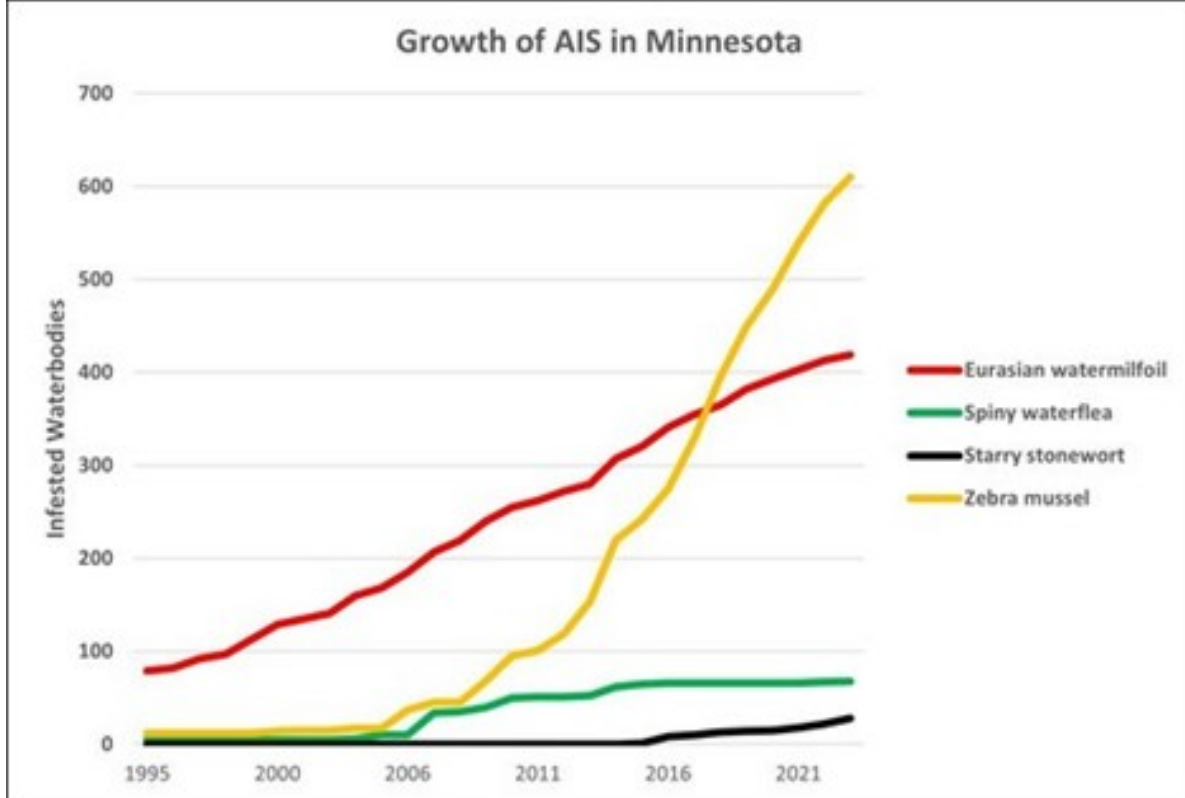
10 trees for fluctuating water levels



Happy Trees For The Shore

Lake property owners may have noticed changing precipitation patterns impacting water resources over the past decade. Experts from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Impacts (WICCI) Water Resources Working Group found in a 2021 report that, "Rising air temperatures, more precipitation from fall to spring, and more frequent and larger extreme precipitation events are climate impacts affecting Wisconsin's lakes, streams, groundwater, and wetlands."

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AIS Remains A Top Priority

Reprinted from MN COLA Newsletter, January 2024

Four key aquatic invasive species have been highlighted from the DNR invasive species list. Zebra mussels and spiny waterfleas are included as they have significant impacts on the ecology of the water with corresponding impacts to the fish food chain. Starry stonewort and Eurasian watermilfoil are included because they impact navigation and therefore the ability to recreate on the lake.

The good news is that spiny waterflea infestations have leveled out and the growth rate for Eurasian watermilfoil infestations is slowing.

The bad news is that zebra mussel infestations keep climbing and although not in the same league as the others, starry stonewort infestations are growing.

[MORE](#)



Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center

SUPPORT
MAISRC



MAISRC Newsletter - February 2024

Discover the latest research, management strategies, and success stories about **aquatic invasive species** as we strive to preserve our Minnesota waters for generations to come. Check out the **Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)** [February newsletter](#)

MN Lake Browser Updated

<https://water.rs.umn.edu/news>

LakeBrowser updated and expanded

The **Minnesota LakeBrowser** has provided satellite-derived water quality data for more than 10,000 Minnesota lakes since 2002. It was recently updated with new data on lake clarity (Secchi depth) and now extends from 1975 to 2022. It now includes additional water quality properties (chlorophyll and CDOM) for 2017 to 2022. Enhanced capabilities have been added to display temporal trends and geospatial patterns.

New capability for near real-time monitoring

To use the increased spatial, spectral, and temporal resolution provided by Sentinel 2 and Landsat 8 and 9 data and advancements in image processing, and with financial support from the University of Minnesota, Legislative and Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources, and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and in collaboration with the Minnesota Supercomputing Institute, we have developed a highly automated, state-of-the-art system to download, process, and analyze satellite imagery for lake water quality measurements and monitoring.

[UMN Lake Browser](#)



West Public Access, West Battle Lake - picture by Tracy Rendz-Eldridge

Ice Damage To Shoreline Property

Property owners occasionally return to their cabins in the spring only to discover they are dealing with property damage caused by a phenomenon called "ice heaving" or "ice jacking". This powerful natural force forms a feature along the shoreline known as an "**ice ridge**". The result may include significant damage to retaining walls, docks and boat lifts, and sometimes even to the cabin itself.

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Time To Buy New Hunting, Fishing Licenses

Now is the time of year for anglers and hunters to buy new fishing and hunting licenses. Minnesota fishing, hunting and trapping licenses for 2023 expire Thursday, Feb. 29. Licenses for 2024 are now available wherever fishing and hunting licenses are sold, [online](https://mndnr.gov/buyalicense) (mndnr.gov/buyalicense) and by telephone at 888-665-4236. Online buyers can print the license or choose to receive a text or email that when displayed on a mobile device serves as proof of a valid fish or game license to state conservation officers.

All 2024 fishing licenses become effective Friday, March 1. New licenses are required to participate in 2024 hunting and fishing seasons that continue past Feb. 29.

[Online purchase](#)

MN DNR Classifies 13 Invasive Plants

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has classified 13 high-risk invasive aquatic plants, fish and invertebrates as prohibited invasive species. The DNR classifies invasive species as prohibited to prevent their introduction and spread in Minnesota and to protect the state's environment, economy, natural resources and outdoor recreation. It is unlawful to possess, import, purchase, transport or introduce prohibited invasive species, except under a DNR-issued permit for disposal, decontamination, control, research or education.

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MN COLA



Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations

MN COLA February 2024 Update

MN COLA sets 2024 member meeting dates <https://mncola.org/mn-cola-sets-2024-meeting-dates/>

Free Zoom session hosted by the MAISRC AIS Detectors program at the University of Minnesota March 13 - "Can underwater jets help prevent AIS spread?" <https://mncola.org/event/can-underwater-jets-help-prevent-ais-spread-march-13-1-pm-ct/>

Go [HERE](#) for a review of the benefits of joining MN COLA

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[David Helgerson](#), OTC COLA Director Liaison with MN COLA



OTTER TAIL
COUNTY - MINNESOTA

AIS Task Force February 2024 Update

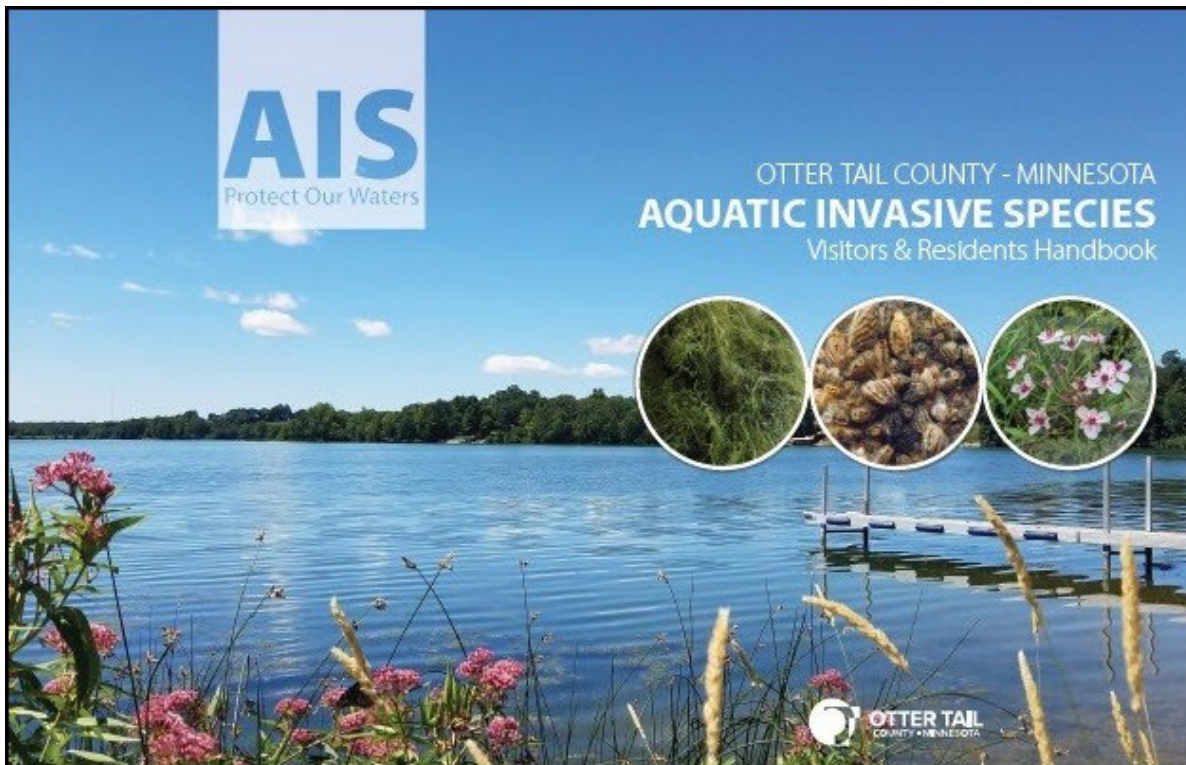
- Hiring watercraft inspectors
- Self-service rinse station update
- Visitors and Residents Handbook in 2nd printing
- OTC dock & lift permit system improved
- National Invasive Species Awareness Week

[MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew](#), OTC AIS Specialist

2023 PROGRAM SUMMARY

[AIS Prevention Aid Program Snapshot 2023](#)
[AIS Prevention 2023 Report](#)



Click on image for Handbook

AIS Handbooks Second Printing

The enthusiastically acclaimed AIS Handbook sponsored by the Otter Tail

County AIS Task Force is doing a second printing in February 2024. The Handbook will be distributed to lake property owners, resort owners, and civic organizations in Otter Tail County. Quantities can be reserved from Otter Tail County Land & Resource 218-998-8095. Besides disseminating AIS prevention best practices in the Handbooks, the AIS prevention information will also be published in area newspapers and included in social media posts.

[AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents](#)

[AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents Cover](#)

[Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County AIS Specialist](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [January 11, 2024](#)
-

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [January 2, 2024](#)
 - [January 9, 2024](#)
 - [January 23, 2024](#)
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[AIS * Water Quality * Administration * Regulation](#)

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- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2023 samples- Individual reports for 60 OTC COLA Lakes\)](#)
- [Lake Property Owner Directories \(2019\)](#) - Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [OTC COLA Brochure](#) - View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
- **We want to hear from you!** - Go [HERE](#) to give OTC COLA your comments and suggestions

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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant