



Dear Pelican Lake Association Members and Friends,

We are writing to inform you of a very close call with zebra mussels this October. A single juvenile zebra mussel was found on dock equipment removed from big Pelican Lake.

Zebra mussels destroy food chains, filter water, clog pipes and engines, reproduce at a rapid rate and have sharp shells that ruin sandy swimming beaches.



A dock services provider discovered the zebra mussel attached to a dock post during removal of a dock. Dan Swanson from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources was contacted and positively identified the zebra mussel. The DNR spent several days thoroughly checking boat lifts, docks, weed rollers and fish baskets on the northwest corner of Pelican Lake. They inspected the marker buoys, talked to dock service providers that removed equipment from the lake, and also looked at docks and lifts on the south and east shores of the lake.

The good news: No additional zebra mussels were found and the mussel's small size indicates it was not at the reproductive stage.

The DNR will resume an aggressive search in the spring, including having two certified DNR Scuba divers check the 8,300-acre lake.

According to state statute, a lake will be designated as an infested water if it's been determined that the water contains a population of an aquatic invasive species that could spread to other waters if use of the water and related activities are not regulated to prevent this. One mussel does NOT make Pelican Lake designated as infested waters.

This close call reminds us that lakeshore owners and lake visitors to be even more proactive in prevention and protection actions. It is imperative to continue and raise prevention efforts to stop the transfer of all waters and weeds from lake to lake. New laws in 2011 make it mandatory to pull boat plugs, drain bait buckets, and empty live wells when leaving all rivers and lake waters.

The story has been covered by Nancy Vogt at The Echo and can be found at:
http://www.pineandlakes.com/stories/120711/localnews_20111207002.shtml

DNR officials want to hear from anyone on the lake who suspects a zebra mussel sighting. Any additional zebra mussel detections should be reported immediately to DNR invasive species specialists Dan Swanson at [218-833-8645](tel:218-833-8645) or Rich Rezanka at [218-999-7805](tel:218-999-7805).

Sincerely,

Pelican Lakes Association Board of Directors