

ZEBRA MUSSELS ARE HERE / CAN WE STOP STARRY STONEWORT

There has been several siting's of Zebra Mussel in Otter Tail Lake. We may have a more serious problem if Starry Stonewort gets into our lakes and rivers, we will have limited use of our waters.

My name is Bernie Steeves and I am a board member of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc., board member of Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association Foundation, Inc., Aquatic Invasive Species Chair for Otter Tail County Coalition of Lakes Associations and Chairman for Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force. All of these individual groups work for the same common cause: that is to promote education and protect our bodies of water. We work closely with the MN DNR on a number of major issues that arise throughout each year. Each year the State of Minnesota designates \$500,000 towards OTC AIS task force. We have been recently installing an additional 10 I-Lids around the counties highest traffic lakes to monitor for any AIS.

When the call came into my office about this finding on Otter Tail Lake, my next steps were to follow our protocols which is: validate the claim, notify OTC Land and Resources, DNR and AIS Task Force. At that point the DNR officials, over the course of three days, analyzed 3,000 objects on Otter Tail Lake. Otter Tail Lake will be placed on the Invasive Species list of invested lakes. Now is the time, more than ever, to educate all people who use our lakes not just our members or the people who live around our lakes about AIS.

Zebra Mussels are not the end of the world. There are four other Invasive species to watch for: Eurasian Watermilfoil, Spiny Water Flea, Flowering Rush and **Starry Stonewort**. (see attached) If by chance you may find something, you must notify the DNR immediately at 218-739-7576 ext. 254.

Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc has just launched a new website for your resource guide to all information related to our lakes and programs, please be sure to check our website for the latest news and press releases related to our lakes. Also, sign up at www.otlpoa.com for our email campaigns for the fastest information released right to your phone or computer.

We need your individual and financial support.

Thank you

Bernie Steeves
bsteeves@arvig.net

Every person who uses Minnesota's lakes and rivers for outdoor recreation has a responsibility to help prevent and curb the spread of AIS...because it is preventable. Make a pledge to do your part.

Source MN DNR