

# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION ZEBRA MUSSEL VELIGER MONITORING



Inspection and prevention programs are the foundation for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) comprehensive management programs and represent the most important component of an AIS management program.

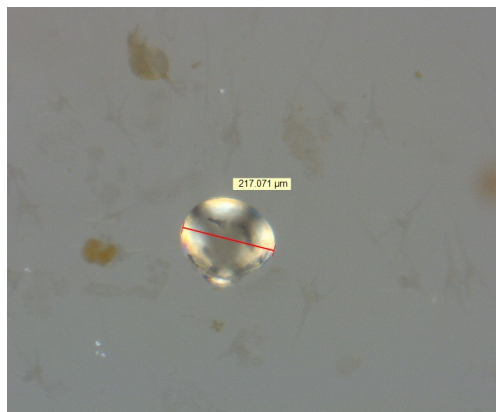
In 2016, the Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District adopted a Zebra Mussel Prevention, Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan.

In 2017, zebra mussels were found in four locations in Comfort Lake. No lake-wide zebra mussel treatments

were possible at this time. Reproducing populations of zebra mussels have also been found in Forest Lake, White Bear Lake, Mille Lacs Lake and the St. Croix River. Zebra mussels can change water quality and lake biota. Once zebra mussels have been introduced into a lake there has never been a successful attempt to eradicate them from a lake. Managing an established population of zebra mussels is often unsuccessful.

In 2019, Chisago County partnered with the National Park Service and St. Croix River Association to monitor for zebra mussel veligers in 11 County lakes and rivers. This was part of a larger St. Croix basin, regional Minnesota/Wisconsin program where a total of 35 lakes and rivers were sampled. Veligers are microscopic, free living larvae that begin to form shells. After two to three weeks, the microscopic veligers settle and attach to any firm surface using tiny fibers called “byssal threads”.

In the 2019 monitoring, veligers were found in Comfort Lake (sample photo right). No veligers were found at any of the other sites.



## Partners:

- Chisago County
- Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District
- National Park Service
- St. Croix River Association

## Chisago County Lakes & Rivers Monitored

- Comfort
- Fish
- Kroon
- Little
- Little Green
- North Center
- North Goose
- Rush
- South Lindstrom
- Spider
- St. Croix River at Interstate Park
- Sunrise River at Kost Dam

