

ZEBRA MUSSEL VELIGER MONITORING

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

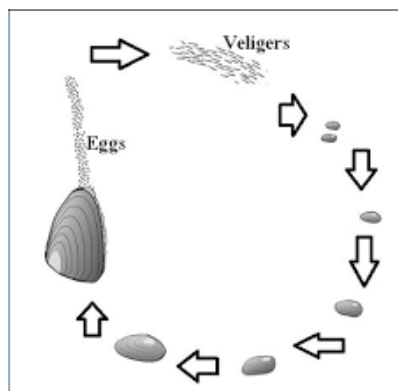
Inspection and prevention programs are the foundation for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) comprehensive management programs and represent the most important component of an AIS management program.

In 2017, zebra mussels were found in four locations in Comfort Lake. No lake-wide zebra mussel treatments are 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 2017, Chisago County partnered with the National Park Service and St. Croix River Association to monitor for zebra mussel veligers in 9 County lakes and rivers. This was part of a larger St. Croix basin, regional Minnesota/Wisconsin program. 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”.



No veligers were found at the Chisago County sites. However, some of the samples may have been collected after veligers had settled out of the water column.



Partners:

- Chisago County
- Chisago Lakes LID
- National Park Service
- St. Croix River Association

Chisago County Lakes & Rivers Monitored

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



LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT