

2017 Planning & Progress Summary

May 24, 2017

Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species
It's the law!

ALWAYS...

- **INSPECT** your boat, trailer, and equipment.
- **REMOVE** any attached aquatic plants or animals.
- **DRAIN** all water from boats, motors, and equipment.
- **NEVER MOVE** plants or live fish away from a waterbody.

Although not required by law, decontamination using bleach or hot water pressure washing is even better at preventing AIS spread.

If you find a suspected zebra mussel (adult, to scale, below) or other aquatic invasive species, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "report AIS" for step-by-step directions.



Zebra Mussels Confirmed in Big McKenzie in October 2016

A local citizen found zebra mussels on his pier, and DNR staff verified them in Big McKenzie Lake, Burnett and Washburn Counties, in October 2016.

This is the first confirmed inland zebra mussel population in the 12 northwestern counties of Wisconsin. Zebra mussels are in Lake

Superior, St. Croix County, and the Twin Cities metro area.

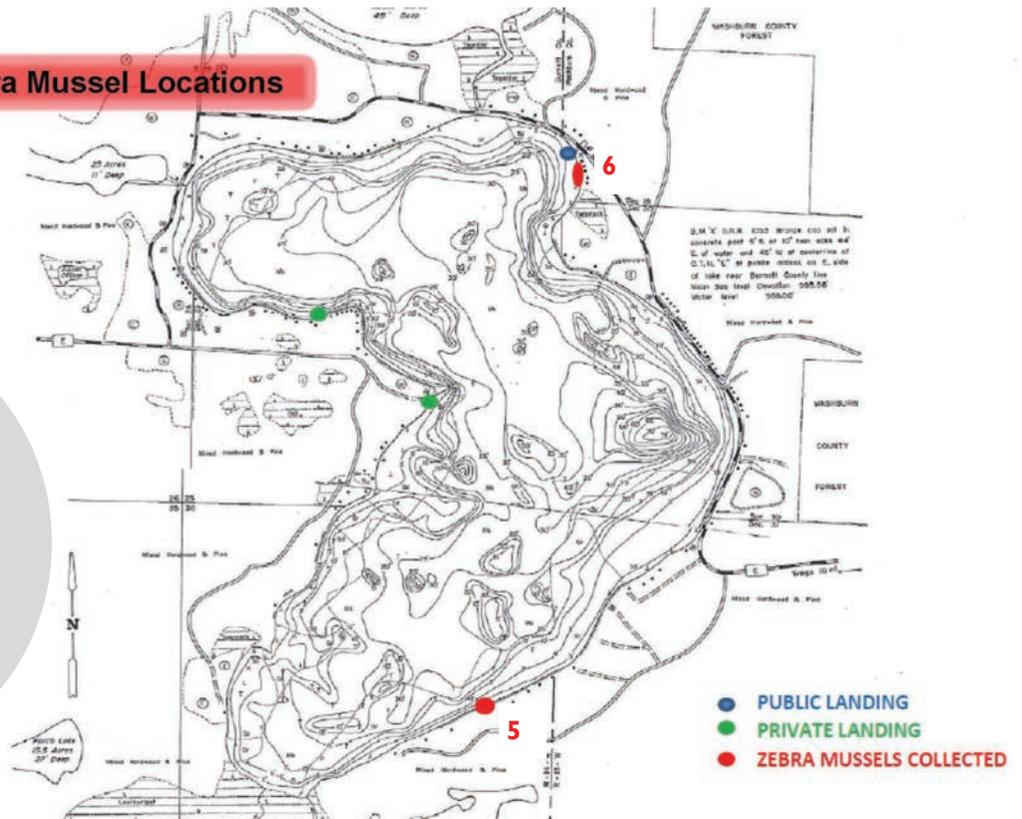
A total of 11 zebra mussels, a year or less old, have been identified on Big McKenzie Lake (map below).

The management team plans substantial profes-

sional monitoring and watercraft inspection efforts in 2017.

You can help by volunteering to monitor, inspect watercraft, educate your lake group or local government, and/or contribute funding to community-based AIS prevention efforts.

Zebra Mussel Locations



PLANNING



Contain AIS and Prevent Further Spread

- McKenzie Lakes Association, Burnett and Washburn Counties, DNR, and private businesses are partnering to provide watercraft inspection and decontamination coverage on the McKenzie Chain with an emphasis at Big McKenzie.
- McKenzie Lakes Association will have decontamination signs at all its public landings.
- 17 lakes in the 2 counties have existing Clean Boats Clean Waters programs.
- Burnett County and DNR decontamination units will be at McKenzie Chain throughout the summer, although 24/7 coverage is not possible.
- DNR will have a credentialed Water Guard, a warden with enforcement authority focusing on AIS laws.
- DNR has an electronic DOT-style signboard reminding boaters of AIS laws it will place throughout the area this summer.
- Burnett and Washburn Counties have their own illegal-to-transport ordinances adding another layer of enforcement capacity.

Monitor to Understand the Extent and Distribution

- Professional early detection monitoring on at least 18 lakes, including the McKenzie Chain and nearby lakes determined to be suitable for establishing zebra mussels based on calcium levels (map on opposite page).
- Professional and volunteer monitoring with zebra mussel plate samplers on at least 7 lakes.
- Volunteers are welcome to do AIS monitoring on their lakes as part of the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network.
- Early detection monitoring begins June 15th, and plate sampler deployment can occur anytime.
- Monitoring samples and results are shared in batches with results available in weeks, at best, and possibly months (i.e. August—October).



A zebra mussel plate sampler ~40 will be placed in the McKenzie Chain.

June 16th is the next opportunity to learn about zebra mussels. Google “Northwest Lakes Conference 2017” to learn more.

Keep the Public Informed

- WCLRA and BCLRA are working with local communities to form lake groups and town committees. The Town of Chicog recently formed an AIS Committee.
- Annual lake group meetings, including McKenzie Lakes Association, will emphasize zebra mussels and other AIS.
- There are no additional management team public meetings currently planned for summer 2017, but you are encouraged to attend events like the Northwest Lakes Conference on June 16 in Hayward.
- Burnett County will coordinate future public information meetings on behalf of the team.
- We will continue to grow our email distribution list and use it to update folks when new information, including monitoring results, is available.
- WCLRA and BCLRA will keep their websites updated.

The McKenzie Lakes Area Zebra Mussel Management Team, covering Burnett and Washburn Counties, includes community organization and government partners trying their best to cooperatively respond to a public concern. The Team uses the tools at hand, including Wisconsin's Rapid Response Framework for Invasive Species, AIS grant funding, and existing laws.



Stay tuned to
www.wclra.org and
www.tinyurl.com/Burnett-County-ZMs

PROGRESS

Follow-up monitoring occurred within a week of the original citizen report. A total of 11 zebra mussels, a year or less old, identified in 2 separate locations on the lake (map on page 1).

December 1, 2016, Public Information Meeting with estimated 80-100 people in attendance and May 18, 2017, Open House.

Three grants awarded: McKenzie Lakes Association AIS Early Detection and Response; Washburn County AIS Education, Prevention & Planning; and Burnett County AIS Education, Prevention & Planning. Zebra mussel response activities are one part of the County grants. National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and lake/river groups are also contributing funding and/or staff/volunteer time.

Management Team formed with priorities to 1) contain AIS and prevent further spread (i.e. watercraft inspection & decontamination); 2) understand the extent and distribution of the Big McKenzie zebra mussel population (i.e. monitoring); and 3) keep the public informed (i.e. written and oral communications). Management Team has met 3 times with multiple additional sub-team meetings.

Management Team sub-groups are working on specific issues like a voluntary decontamination program for local lake service providers; better under-

standing public access and coordinating watercraft inspection/decon at them; and communications.

Evaluating control options, which will depend on monitoring results. Control elsewhere (e.g. Minnesota) has had limited success and would likely be an experimental design if feasible.

2017 monitoring, watercraft inspection and decontamination, and communication plans developed.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**