



Dear Lake Service Provider,

We need your help! Zebra Mussels have been found in Big McKenzie Lake – the first inland lake with zebra mussels in a 12-county area in Northwestern Wisconsin. This makes boat/trailer cleaning and disinfections important. We would like to offer some assistance to you to help keep boats, trailers, and other equipment clean by providing materials for your use (disinfectants and sprayers) and training on proper procedures, etc. Service providers like you care about the lakes – so much that some of the suggestions in this letter came directly from them.

Remember that transportation of aquatic plants, animals, and water is illegal both under state and county laws. Always Inspect, Remove plants and animals, Drain all water, and Never Move plants, animals, or water from any boat landing.

Decontaminating your equipment further minimizes the chances of spreading aquatic invasive species, especially small critters like zebra mussel larvae that the naked eye cannot see. Some options for disinfection are:

1. Have a dedicated trailer for Big McKenzie Lake.
 - Some vendors are reserving trailers to be used only on Big McKenzie.
 - Some lake associations are providing trailers specific for their lake.
 - Some lake associations are providing financial assistance to purchase trailers specific for their lake.
2. Hot water pressure wash – at least 140° for 10 minutes.
3. Virkon Aquatic – this is a hydrogen peroxide type product. Fairly easy to use and safe for water environments. Non corrosive but hard on hip boots and waders especially if not rinsed. Contact Burnett or Washburn counties for assistance. We will purchase the Virkon Aquatic and sprayers for your use as requested.
4. Bleach solution – this is a substantially diluted chlorine solution from household bleach. Not good for the lake environment and is corrosive to metals. Ratio of 1.25 ounces (or 2.5 tablespoons) of household bleach per 1 gallon of water. Note: once mixed, the potency diminishes after 24 hours, so you'll need to mix a fresh batch every day. The LWCDs will provide bleach and sprayers as requested.

The good news? The County Land & Water Conservation Departments can provide you with any equipment, materials or training needed for disinfection. As we move forward in this effort to control the spread of zebra mussels we welcome any communication with requests or recommendations. In the meantime, check out www.wclra.org for more local information.

The DNR web site has gear and method specific information which you can access by following this link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/disinfection.html>

Please feel free to contact us at the number listed below. **We need to know your spring needs for chemicals and sprayers ASAP.** We appreciate your partnership to keep our lakes clean!

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