

# Zebra mussels confirmed in Union Lake in Polk County

This past July, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Union Lake, in Polk County. A lake property owner contacted the DNR after finding a zebra mussel attached to a native mussel in Union Lake. DNR staff found more than 15 zebra mussels near the public water access, which is more than a mile from the location of the initial discovery.

Union Lake has a pump that is used in certain high-water conditions. This pump already has a filter to prevent the dispersal of Eurasian watermilfoil, and it is not currently operating. The DNR will provide direction to the Sand Hill River Watershed District, which operates the pump, to ensure that any future pumping operations are modified to prevent the spread of zebra mussels downstream.

While zebra mussels and other invasive species can be introduced to a lake via private docks and accesses, public accesses are typically the first to be surveyed for invasive species. Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires people to:

- **Clean** watercraft, trailers and equipment to remove aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- **Drain** all water and leave drain plugs out during transport.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.
- **Never release** bait, plants or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.
- **Dry docks, lifts and rafts for 21 days** before moving them from one water body to another.
- **Decontaminate** watercraft and equipment.
- **Spray** watercraft and equipment with high-pressure water or **rinse** with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- **Dry** watercraft and equipment for at least five days before using in another water body.

People should contact the MN DNR if they think they have found zebra mussels or any other invasive species that was not already known to be in the water body.

More information is available on the Polk County website for additional information about AIS prevention visit: <https://www.polkcountymn.gov/264/Aquatic-Invasive-Species-Taskforce>

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Polk County Environmental Services



# CLEAN.DRAIN.DRY.



**CLEAN**

- ✓ Boats, trailers, and gear
- ✓ Remove all weeds, mud, and hitchhiking contaminants from axels, wheels, undercarriage, motor, prop, nets, and gear before leaving boat landing



**DRAIN**

- ✓ Water from boat, bilge, motor, and live well
- ✓ Remove drain plug and open all water draining devices
- ✓ Trash unused bait



**DRY**

- ✓ Everything at least five days before going to other waters
- ✓ (Or) Decontaminate with high pressure water (120°F or warmer)

**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES!** LEARN MORE AT [CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG](http://CLEANDRAIN.DRY.ORG)







