

# NLA Zebra Mussel/Invasive Specie Transmission Prevention Document (Draft)

The impact of an infestation of Zebra Mussels or other invasive species can be catastrophic! Property values have been known to be impacted by 25 to 50%. This is no exaggeration!

The goal of your Nebraska Lake Association (NLA) is to develop a Zebra Mussel Protocol template that members of the NLA can use to develop a protocol for their lake that will attempt to keep Zebra mussels from spreading to our lakes either as:

1. Veligers transported in water, or as
2. Adults attached to boat hulls, engines, bait traps, or on other items.

Veligers don't survive drying, but they can survive in any small pool of water. Adult zebra mussels can close their shells and survive drying for several days. In moist environments, they can survive out of the water even longer.

## Zebra Mussel Lake Management Protocols

- A. 24/7 locked boat ramp (with limited key availability to Board Members Only).
- B. Each boat entering {member lake} should be inspected prior to entry.
- C. All boats should have a lot number (or other form of identification displayed on their boat) in specified location.
- D. Any boat removed from {member lake} will be documented and a mandatory 14 day dry out period should be undertaken (in driveway of homeowner), beginning on the day the boat is returned to the lake development.
- E. In addition, any Ballast carrying boat removed from a member lake will need to show proof of professional decontamination prior to reentry. Note: under no circumstances should a boat be attempted to be decontaminated on the shores, streets or boat ramp of {member lake}.
- F. The only exceptions to item D. above will be:
  - a. For maintenance and that maintenance should be verified or
  - b. Proof of professional decontamination by authorized vendor(s) approved by {member lake}.
- G. Any vendor delivering boats to {member lake}, needs to decontaminate their trailer (and any boats) if that trailer or boat has been in water other than {member lake}.
- H. Any outside service vendors (i.e. - major spraying operations, dredging activity, barge installing sea walls/rip rap) should adhere to the fourteen day dry out period by parking their equipment in clear view during the dry out period.
- I. Under no exception are guest boats ever allowed in {member lake}.
- J. Make sure that anything used in water activities (minnow buckets, boat docks, trailers, kayaks, canoes, paddleboats, stand up paddle boards, etc.) that might take on water should be treated and dried for a 14 day period before bringing them on to our lake.
- K. Anything that comes into our lake from any other water source, should be treated as though it is potentially infected.
- L. It is up to the homeowners of {member lake} to inform their guests of our Zebra Mussel/Invasive Specie Protocols.

- M. The minimum recommended fines for infraction should start at \$1,000 and loss of lake privileges.

**Other measures to protect {member lake}**

- a) Remove plants and animals from your boat, trailer, and accessory equipment (anchors, centerboards, trailer hitch, wheels, rollers, cables, and axles) before leaving the water access area of any lake that you visit with any water toys, bait buckets, etc.
- b) Drain your live wells, bilge water, and transom wells before leaving the water access area.
- c) Empty your bait bucket on land, never into the water. Never dip your bait or minnow bucket into one lake if it has water in it from another. Also, never dump live fish from one water body into other waters.
- d) When you get home:
  - Wash your boat, tackle, downriggers, and trailer with hot water (away from any bodies of water or sewers that drain into your lake). Also, flush water through your motor's cooling system and other boat parts that normally get wet.
  - Please be sure to let everything dry for 14 days before transporting your boat to another body of water.

Learn what invasive organisms look like. If you suspect a new infestation of an exotic plant or animal, report it to Allison Zach at the Nebraska School of Natural Resources (402-472-3133, [azach3@unl.edu](mailto:azach3@unl.edu)). Also check with Allison for recommendations and permits before you try to control or eradicate an exotic "pest." Remember, exotic species thrive on disturbance.