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42. Zebra Mussels

Recommended Actions:

Under development: Continue to work with the shipping industry on finding ways to eliminate importation of zebra mussels into the AOC and continue to educate the boating public about the preventative measures that should be practiced to avoid further introductions of this serious pest. Ongoing research and monitoring related to zebra mussels should determine conditions controlling their population growth in the AOC.

Implementors:

Great Lakes Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species, MDNR, State of Minnesota, WDNR, State of Wisconsin.

Actions Taken:

4/98: Follow up letters sent to MDNR and WDNR, Minnesota Extension Service.

4/00 Ninth International Zebra Mussel and Aquatic Nuisance Species Conference in Duluth hosted by Minnesota Sea Grant.

9/28/00: News Release, "Major Zebra Mussel Infestation in Harbor Impacts Native Mussels, Boaters."

9/11/00: MDNR: Zebra mussels in the St. Louis River.

11/00: MDNR Exotic Species Coordinator: MDNR has rotating watercraft inspections at access sites to educate boaters. A field guide is handed out the first time. For future reference, a sticker is placed on the boat to indicate that the boater has received the guide. Signs are posted at access sites that state:

1. The area is infested.
2. How to prevent the spread of exotics.
3. Reminder to stop and remove exotics from watercraft.

Information about exotics is included in boating and fishing regulation booklets that are given out when people apply for licenses. Radio and TV spots have been run in Duluth as well as billboards and press releases. Work with Minnesota Sea Grant and use of their exotics information cards. MDNR can issue tickets for violations at road checks and boat launches but they have not done this in the Duluth area. Any transport of water on public roads from an infested waterway requires a permit regardless of the amount.

Project Status:

Project not completed, but there are one or more agencies currently working on it.