

Zebra Mussels.²⁰²³

Zebra mussels are small, typically around one inch long, and they often but not always have yellow to brown dark and light stripes along the shell, which can be sharp. They attach to hard surfaces such as rocks, boats, and pipes, and reproduce with few constraints. They have been found in local lakes like Offutt Air Force Base, Lake Zorinsky, and the Missouri river.

Mussels that attach to boats and trailers can be carried from one body of water to another. Their young, called veligers, are too small to view with the naked eye. Veligers may be transported with ballast, bilge, and live well water. They can also be transported in bait buckets, on vegetation, and aquatic creatures.

No known method of guaranteed prevention exists, either. But we can attempt to slow their spread. Here's how.

- Drain all equipment that comes in contact with water **immediately after each use**. Never transport any water from one body to another.
- Inspect equipment and remove mud, silt, sand, and aquatic plants and animals after boating.
- Rinse boats and trailers with high-pressure hot water "140 degrees" and/or dry equipment in non-humid surroundings for up to 30 days depending on temperature (cooler temperatures require longer drying times).
- If you are moving docks or boat lifts from another lake to Beaver Lake, you should allow up to 7 days of dry time out of water.
- Use motor muffs to flush mussels from engines.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- Apply anti-fouling paint or coatings to hulls and engine cooling systems.

Once established, no known method of guaranteed eradication exists that would be suitable for our lake. The Association provides pink zip ties at the boathouse at the ramp. When you pull your boat out of the water, you can have them affix this zip tie where your boat connects to your trailer. When you return to the ramp, this will indicate to the Association employee that your boat has not been on foreign waters and will speed up your launching process. If there is no zip tie on your boat, they will proceed with a normal inspection.

The Association will post changes to the Handbook relating to zebra mussels, and we will continue to keep members informed about this important issue. If you find something that you suspect to be a Zebra Mussel, please bring it to the office for identification. Don't release them back into the water.

Remember, slowing the spread of an invasive species depends on all of us doing our part. Let's try to keep Beaver Lake free of zebra mussels.

For more information on zebra mussels, visit: <http://neinvasives.com/species/aquatics/zebra-and-quagga-mussels>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abImqGDzXBo&feature=youtu.be>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gtqb41CjQfc&feature=youtu.be>
<https://vimeo.com/25673856>
<https://www.westernais.org/training-resources?wix-vod-video-id=d043bd3606c34cf98b9fff286e025d0a&wix-vod-comp-id=comp-iccipw0g>

There is also information on the Beaver Lake Web site, and at the Beaver Lake office and boat ramp.

Zebra Mussel Certification Questionnaire

1. Why are zebra mussels a problem?

- A. There are no known problems with zebra mussels
- B. Zebra mussels will attach themselves to anything hard like boat lifts, docks, boat motors, and can clog water intake pipes
- C. Zebra mussels float on the top of the water and are a nuisance when swimming
- D. All of the above

2. Circle two methods on how people can spread zebra mussels into Beaver Lake?

- A. Taking your boat out of winter storage and not cleaning it before putting it into the lake
- B. Not properly cleaning and drying your boat, lift, or dock before transporting from one body of water to another
- C. With bait buckets moved from one body of water to another
- D. All of the above

3. How can I help prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species?

- A. By draining all water from boats, live wells, and bait wells before entering a new body of water
- B. By never carrying water, fish or plants, including in bait buckets, from one body of water to another
- C. By thoroughly inspecting my boat's hull and trailer for zebra mussels, and removing them
- D. Allowing your equipment to thoroughly dry before putting into the Beaver Lake
- E. All of the above

4. Zebra mussels can be easily eradicated by which of the following methods?

- A. Use of Asian Carp
- B. Chemical treatments
- C. Draining the lake
- D. Electrical Current
- E. None of the above

5. Why would the BLA Employee offer you a zip tie to connect your boat to your trailer?

- A. To allow association members to forgo a boat inspection the next time they come to the lake
- B. Proves your boat hasn't been launched in another body of water since your last visit to BLA
- C. Helps limit congestion at the boat ramp
- D. All of the above

6. True / False – An association member could be denied access to the lake if their boat and/or trailer is dirty and/or contains water?

Beaver Lake Boating Rules & Regulations

7. When operating a motorized vessel at wake speed (over 5mph), how far away must you be from another watercraft/shoreline/marina?

- A. minimum 30 feet
- B. minimum 90 feet
- C. minimum 200 feet

8. When operating a vessel at no wake speed (under 5mph), should you be:

- A. closer to the middle of the lake
- B. closer to shore – to allow faster boats to safely pass on the left
- C. either, it doesn't matter

9. True / False – It's only legal to jump the wake of a boat/vessel, if they are NOT towing someone on a tube/ski/wakeboard, etc, if you are a minimum of 50 yds (150ft) behind the boat/vessel.

10. True / False – Boats are prohibited from doing donuts/cookies on the lake at any time. Jet Skis are only able to do donuts/cookies during the week (not weekends or Holidays) in designated areas i.e. the back of the larger coves.

11. What is the age restriction for being required to wear a life jacket on a vessel?

- A. everyone must wear a life jacket when on a moving vessel
- B. under 13 years old you are required
- C. under 16 years old you are required
- D. under 20 years old you are required

12. True / False – Anyone born after December 31st 1985, who operates any motorboat or PWC in Nebraska must successfully complete the Boating Safety Course and carry a valid certificate of course completion on board the vessel. You must be at least 14 years of age to operate a motorboat or PWC in Nebraska.

13. True / False – Secondary vessels can be used on Holiday weekends as long as the lake is not busy.

14. Which of the following statements are true. Choose all that are true

- A. Standing or sitting with legs extended beyond the edge of a boat/vessel while in motion is prohibited.
- B. A 10 yr old child doesn't need to wear a life jacket as long as there is an adult on board.
- C. Only the operator is allowed to stand while the vessel in in motion for visibility reasons.
- D. Jet Skis PWC cannot, under any circumstances, be operated between sunset and sunrise.

15. True / False – All fisherman at Beaver Lake must have a NE state fishing license if they are 16 or older.

I have read and understand the boating regulations. I have read and understand the potential effects of zebra mussels in Beaver Lake. I agree to abide by the Beaver Lake Association's recommendations on how to minimize the threat of a zebra mussel infestation.

Print Name _____ Lot Number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

****(In order to expedite the process, please complete and bring this questionnaire with you when sticking your first watercraft.)**