

E-Newsletter

April 2018



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

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the monthly newsletter.

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Member Meetings and Events 2018

OTC COLA Member Meetings are planned for the 2018 season. There will be no April meeting of Members but the water testing volunteers will be collecting coolers in the parking lot of the Ottetail Community center starting at 5:00 pm. Regular meetings are scheduled for May, June, July and August at the Ottetail Community Center in Ottetail, MN, featuring informative presentations from emergency service providers and MN legislators. To be announced is the September Field Trip for Members.

- **Thursday, April 19, 2018-Pick up Testing Coolers**
 - 5:00 - 6:30 pm. RMB Labs will distribute water quality coolers to testing volunteers.
 - **No regular member meeting**
 - **Thursday, May 17, 2018**
 - Call 911 - and then what?
 - Ryan Muchow, Fire Chief
 - Jim Iverson, Deputy Sheriff
 - **Thursday, June 21, 2018**
 - Water testing results compilation, distribution and analysis
 - **Thursday, July 19, 2018**
 - State and County Legislator forum
 - **Thursday, August 16, 2018**
 - OTC COLA Annual Meeting
 - Lake Association and volunteer awards
 - **Thursday, September 20, 2018**
 - Field trip (to be announced)
-

OTC COLA Water Testing Kick-Off

The kickoff for COLA's 2018 water testing program will take place at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail MN between 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm. Coolers will be distributed in the parking lot. Representatives from RMB Laboratories will be present to answer any questions on procedures or the program.

[OTC COLA](#)





Late Spring May Delay Readiness for Opener

Shawn Donais, DNR Parks and Trails Supervisor acknowledges that the unprecedented late spring will be extremely detrimental to efforts to get ramps and docks ready for use by fishing opener. In an average year there are 50-60 ramps that are damaged enough to be unusable. The DNR normally has six weeks of open water before fishing opener to fix ramps and install docks. Currently, five weeks from opener, it is looking doubtful that all the needed work will be done on time. The DNR will publish a list of sites that are safely usable and will make a best effort to share that with the public. OTC COLA will publish monthly updates in this E-Newsletter.

[**MORE**](#)

DNR Regulations On Hydraulic Jets And Docks

Jerry Wendlandt is the new Aquatic Plant Management Specialist for the southern half of the Northwest Region (including Otter Tail County). There has been a dramatic increase in the illegal use of hydraulic jets in all of the nine counties in this region. This poster addresses the issue of illegal hydraulic jet use.

CONSIDERING A HYDRAULIC JET?

Know the rules

- **Legal:** Blowing away floating surface debris and algae, if lake bottom is not disturbed. No permit is needed.
- **Not legal:** Using a hydraulic jet in any way that disturbs the lake bottom or uproots aquatic plants. Illegal use of hydraulic jets may result in a citation, restoration order or both from a state conservation officer.

Consider fish, water quality and neighbors

- **Illegal use:** Destroys fish habitat and clouds the water.
- **Improper use:** Creates mats of vegetation and unnatural sediment berms that reduce enjoyment of the lake.

Hydraulic jet brand names examples include: HydroSweep Pro, Aqua Thruster, Aquasweep and Aqua Blaster.

mn DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

FISH AND WILDLIFE

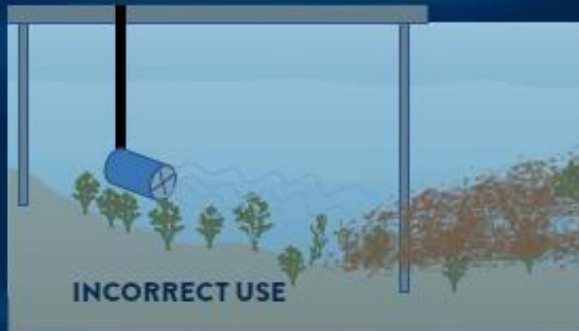
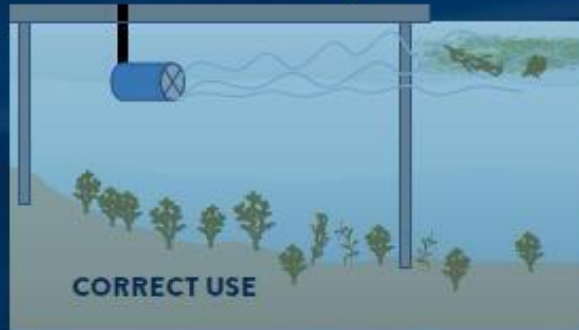
500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155-4036

Call us, new longer hours.

M-F 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

888-MINNDNR www.dnr.state.mn.us

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IS CRITICAL



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Go for [HERE](#) for full screen view.



There is an increasing trend of over-sized docks and

platforms which are not legal. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) allows docks on property you own if it meets specified criteria. Modest platforms at the lake-end of a dock are allowed under certain conditions.

Go [HERE](#) for details

For more information contact:

Jerry Wendlandt

APM Specialist

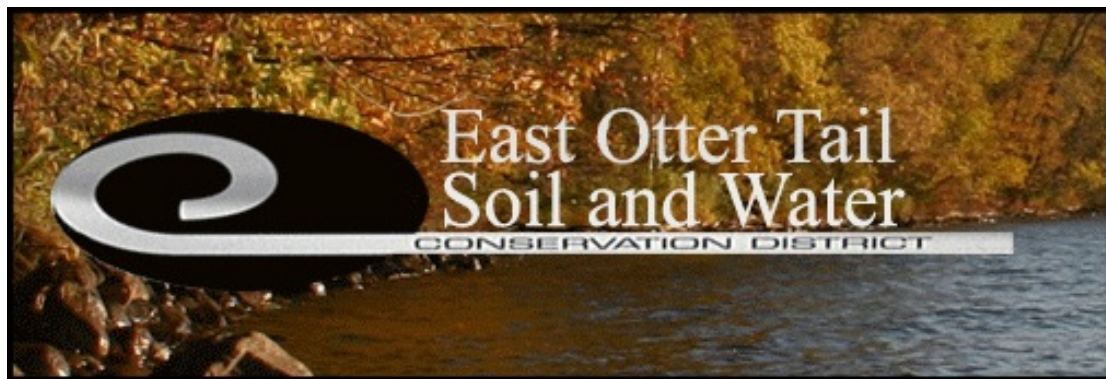
320.634.7333

Minnesota DNR News

In This Issue

- License sales support diverse angling opportunities
- Minnesota fishing facts
- Annual conference welcomes waterfowl enthusiasts
- Be aware of bears this spring; DNR list tips for avoiding conflicts

[MORE](#)
[MN DNR](#)



EOTSWCD Assistance Available For Shoreline Restoration

Did your shoreline have damage from high water? Were the waves cutting into your yard? Or maybe you had a water path from the hillside down to the lake? Perhaps you have rip rap, but want to do more to strengthen your shoreline? These are all common scenarios that our shoreline restoration program addresses

[MORE](#)

[Aimee Zimmermann](#)
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OTC Invites Input On Dock, Lift Ordinance

Otter Tail County invites public input on revisions to dock, lift ordinance

Published on March 6, 2018 at 9:07am CST | Author: Sara Brosowske, [Pelican Rapids Press](#)

In efforts to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, Otter Tail County commissioners and members of the county Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force periodically evaluate rules and regulations.

To that end, the county board is planning an open meeting when county residents can provide input on proposed changes to the county's dock and riparian use ordinance.

A riparian zone includes the interface between land and water. All docks, piers, wharves and boat lifts must remain dry for 21 days before being placed in another body of water.

The public hearing will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, at the County Government Services Center in Fergus Falls. This will be part of the regular county board meeting agenda.



Does Your Boat Insurance

Cover Your Family?

ST. PAUL-When Twin Cities TV reporter Courtney Godfrey lost part of her leg in a boating accident over the summer, she assumed the boat owner's insurance policy would help.

But she quickly learned the boat's liability policy excluded her.

[**MORE**](#)

[**www.inforum.com**](http://www.inforum.com)



MN COLA President's Report March 20, 2018

The meeting of MN COLA members was held March 20, 2018 at the Elks Club in Hutchinson, MN. Hosting the meeting was the Lake Marion Improvement District. The meeting was attended by over 20 members from across Minnesota. Included in the meeting were presentations on an assessment of the recent AIS Summit in Minneapolis, MN and E-DNA as a new tool for early detection and rapid response for AIS.

[**President's Report**](#)

[**Access to AIS Summit recordings till June 2018**](#)

[**MN COLA**](#)



Restore MN DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Grants

In 2015/2016 the MN DNR made up a budget shortfall by lowering the funding levels for aquatic invasive species grants. In 2017, facing another budget shortfall, the MN DNR zeroed out the AIS grant program entirely.

Rep. Sand Layman has introduced HF 3798 in the House, and Senator Carrie Rudd has introduced SF 3531 which would restore \$400,000 to the local DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Grant program.

Please click this [ACT NOW](#) button to contact your elected officials to encourage their support of this funding.

These grants are critical to local efforts to keep the public waterways usable for everyone in the state. Lake Associations already contribute millions of dollars to fund AIS education, inspection and management projects to protect the public waters. This work is having an impact and benefits everyone in Minnesota be they direct users of our lakes and rivers, businesses dependent on healthy lake and river ecosystems, or even people who drink water or pay property taxes. Zebra mussels can damage water plant infrastructure and drive up costs for everyone. Studies have shown that aquatic invasive species can lower property tax base, raising costs for everyone in the taxing district.

Open water is just around the corner, and these grants will help Lake Associations and other local units of government continue to protect our lakes and rivers from Aquatic Invasive Species.

**[Jeff Forester, Executive Director
Minnesota Lakes & Rivers](#)**

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes

[March 6, 2018](#)

OTC Board Of Commissioners Minutes

[February 27, 2018](#)

[March 6, 2018](#)

Otter Tail COLA

Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) is a private volunteer group that partners with lake associations and property owners to preserve the quality of lake living in Otter Tail County.

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