

**IMPORTANT NEWS** from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

# E-Newsletter

## March 2019

### [OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

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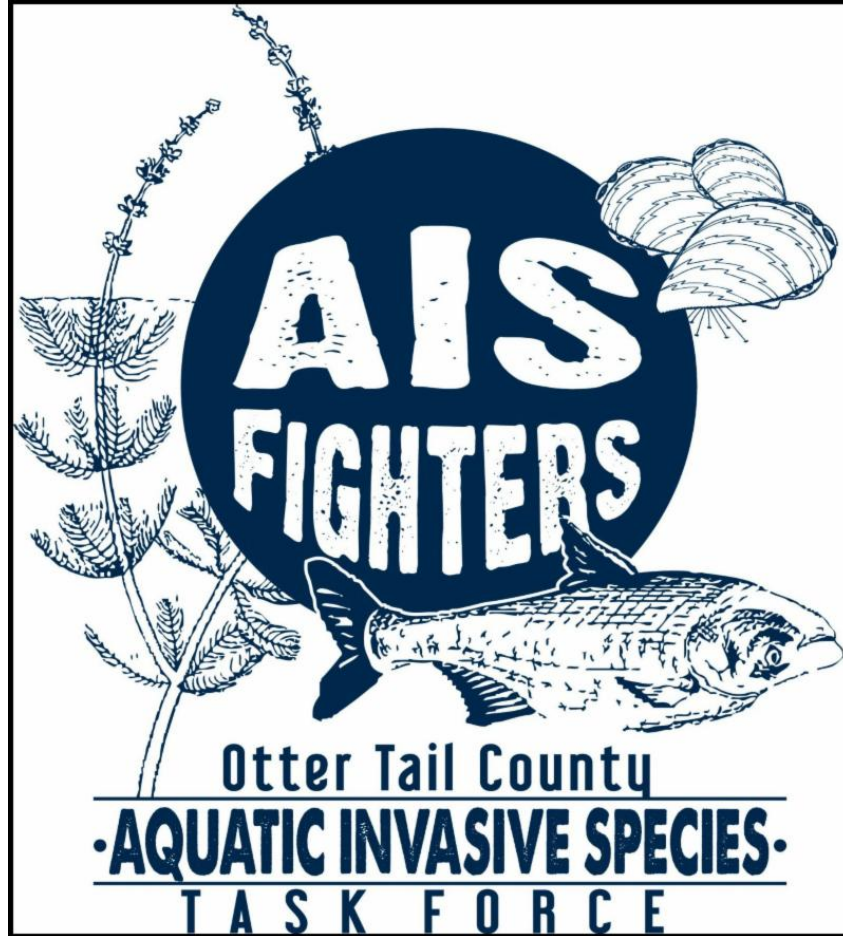
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## **OTC Call For Watercraft Inspectors**

Are you a champion for Otter Tail County's environmental resources? Turn your passion into a career and apply today to be a Land & Resource Inspector.

Otter Tail County is hiring seasonal Watercraft Inspectors to help protect our lakes from aquatic invasive species. DNR training will be provided.

Watch the video [HERE](#)

Apply today! Click [HERE](#)

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## Components of a Successful Lake Stewardship Program

Minnesota Lakes are open to anyone to enjoy. The responsibility for caring for lakes and preserving them for future generations is primarily borne by lakeshore property owners. Lake property owner **activism, organization** and **data** are the most important components contributing to a successful lake stewardship program.

In 2018 a survey of attendees at the Otter Tail Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) Member meetings showed that the top two concerns for lakes were threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), (88%) and lake water quality (84%). Lakes are an important resource for recreation and for nurturing family values. There is an inherent desire of lake property owners to preserve this resource as well as protect investment in property values.

[MORE](#)



## Boat License Surcharge Increase for AIS Control

In 1989 Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered in lake Minnetonka. Minnesota entered the age of aquatic invasive species (AIS). In response the state created a \$5 surcharge on a three year boat license (\$1.66 / yr) to pay for AIS

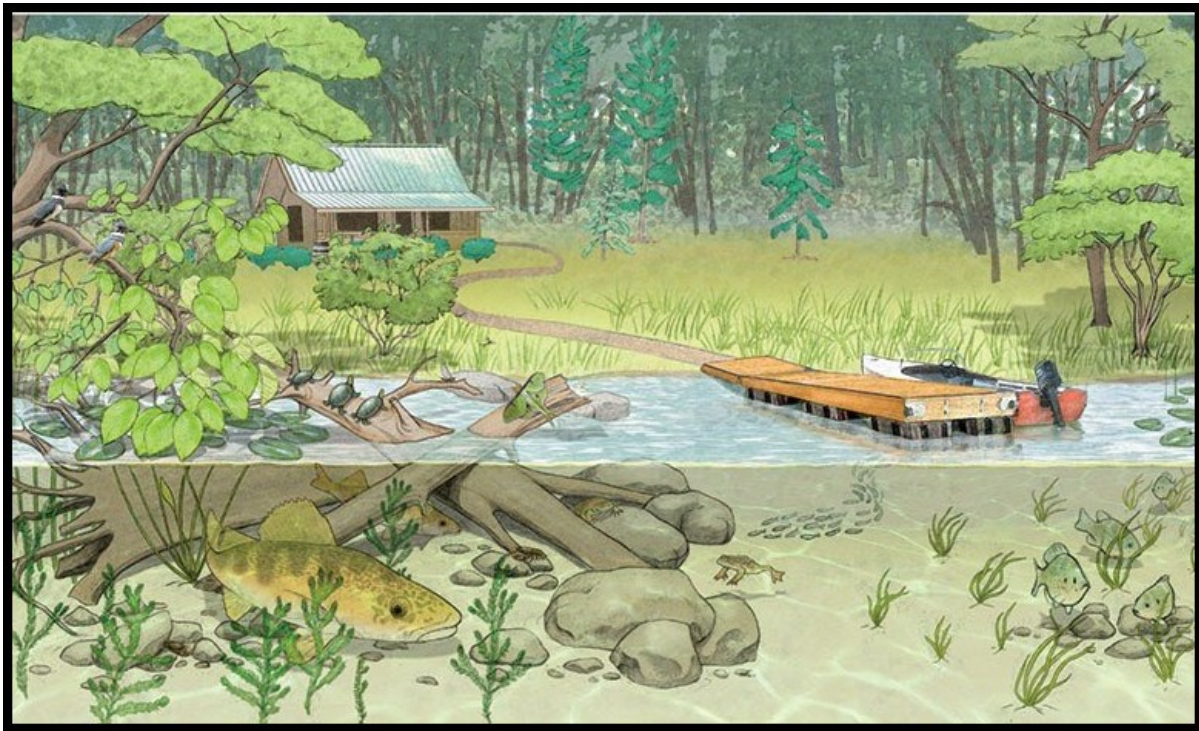
prevention, management and education. There were just a handful of lakes infested then and only a few species of concern. Flash forward 29 years. Over 700 Minnesota lakes, including all of the premier large lakes, are on the DNR infested waters list and there are over twenty different species of plant, animal, algae and viruses of concern. What hasn't changed is the surcharge. It is time to increase the AIS surcharge on three year boat registrations.

HF 1885 would increase the surcharge for a three year boat tag and dedicate this reliable and ongoing funding to the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species (MAISRC), restoration of AIS management grants to lake associations, and funding to the MN DNR invasive species programming, which is running into the red.

Please click [HERE](#) to contact your legislators on this critical issue.

[Jeff Forester](#), Executive Director MLR  
[MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates](#)

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## 12 Ways to Protect Your Lake

Healthy lakes are like Mom, puppies and apple pie – we all love and adore them. So, of course, your lake deserves TLC. There are steps you can take to make sure your cabin property is lake-friendly.

[MORE](#)

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## Lake Association Annual Filings

Most often Lake Associations are registered as tax-exempt by the IRS and do not file an annual tax return. However, this time of year is a good time to review the annual filings that may be required with Minnesota and the IRS. Here is a review of the most common filings that Lake Associations should be aware of as well as background information that may be interesting to you.

### Disclaimer

**This article is a compilation of generally researched information and in no way should be construed as a comprehensive review of all considerations and situations that may be present for all Lake Associations. Lake Associations are advised to rely on their own legal and financial resources. The purpose of this article is to assist Lake Associations in recognizing possible State and Federal filing obligations that they may not be fully aware of.**

There are three most common filings or submissions that may need to be reviewed by Minnesota Lake Associations. They are the Minnesota Business Filing with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, IRS Form 990 or 990-N annual reporting requirement for 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) corporations, and IRS form 1099s if you have made payments to freelance workers or independent contractors.

**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA  
SECRETARY OF STATE STEVE SIMON**

**Minnesota Business Renewal**

Minnesota businesses must file renewals every year to remain active. If you filed a Certificate of Assumed Name, Minnesota Business Corporation, Foreign Business, or Non-Profit Corporation, or a Cooperative, Limited Liability Company, Limited Liability Partnership or Limited Partnership, you must file an annual renewal once every calendar year, beginning in the calendar year following your original filing with the Secretary of State. Your entity will be “statutorily dissolved” (no longer be recognized as existing in Minnesota) if you fail to file your annual renewal. If your entity has been statutorily dissolved, you may have it retroactively reinstated (as long as the name is still available) by filing a renewal for the current year and paying a fee.

Note: There is not a fee for a Non-Profit to Reinstated if they get Statutorily Dissolved.

[MORE](#)

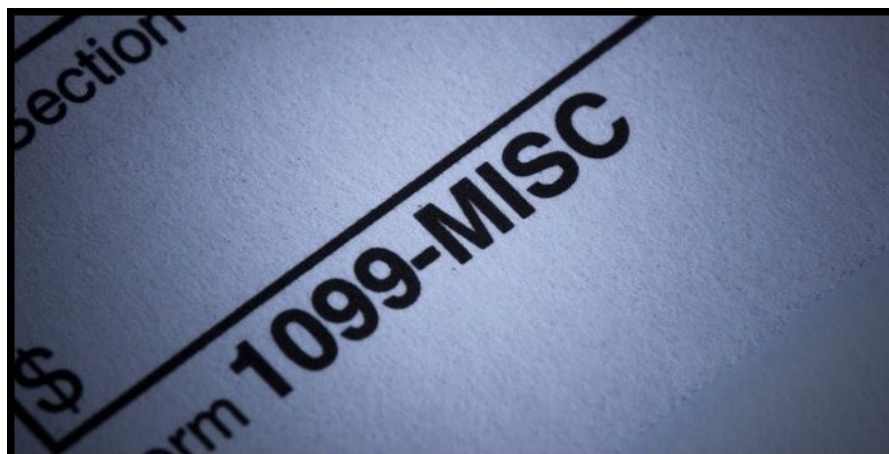


Most tax-exempt organizations who have been granted 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) status from the IRS must annually file Form 990 or 990-N, an informational tax form.

IRS Form 990, 990-N is an informational tax form that most tax-exempt organizations must file annually. In a nutshell, the form gives the IRS an overview of the organization's activities, governance and detailed financial information.

Form 990 also includes a section for the organization to outline its accomplishments in the previous year to justify maintaining its tax-exempt status. In collecting this information, the IRS wants to ensure that organizations continue to qualify for tax exemption after the status is granted.

[Difference between 501\(c\)\(3\) to 501\(c\)\(4\)](#)  
[Lost 501\(c\)\(3\) to 501\(c\)\(4\) status, then what?](#)  
[IRS 990-N User Guide](#)



A 1099 form is used to document wages paid to a freelance worker

or [independent contractor](#). While many business owners aren't sure when to issue a 1099 form to an independent contractor, doing so is an important part of tax compliance.

[When to send a 1099 Form](#)  
[Form 1099](#)

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## Join The OTC COLA Board Of Directors

OTC COLA is a private volunteer group working with lake associations and lake property owners for the common good of all OTC lakes. We are currently looking for individuals to join the Board of Directors and participate in the management of the organization. Interested candidates are welcome to contact

[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)

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### OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes [February 11, 2019](#) Draft

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### OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes [January 29, 2019](#) [February 5, 2019](#)

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### Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all 2018 and 2019 OTC COLA E-Newsletters. Click to access the entire issue.
- [Water Quality Analysis](#)- Individual reports for over 100 OTC Lakes
- [OTC COLA Brochure](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
- [OTC COLA Membership Application](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Membership Application for 2019
- **We want to hear from you!**- Go [HERE](#) to give OTC COLA your comments and suggestions

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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

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