

E-Newsletter January 2019



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Spencer McGrew- OTC AIS Specialist,
OTC Commissioners- Lee Rogness, Wayne Johnson, Doug Huebsch, John Lindquist

Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force

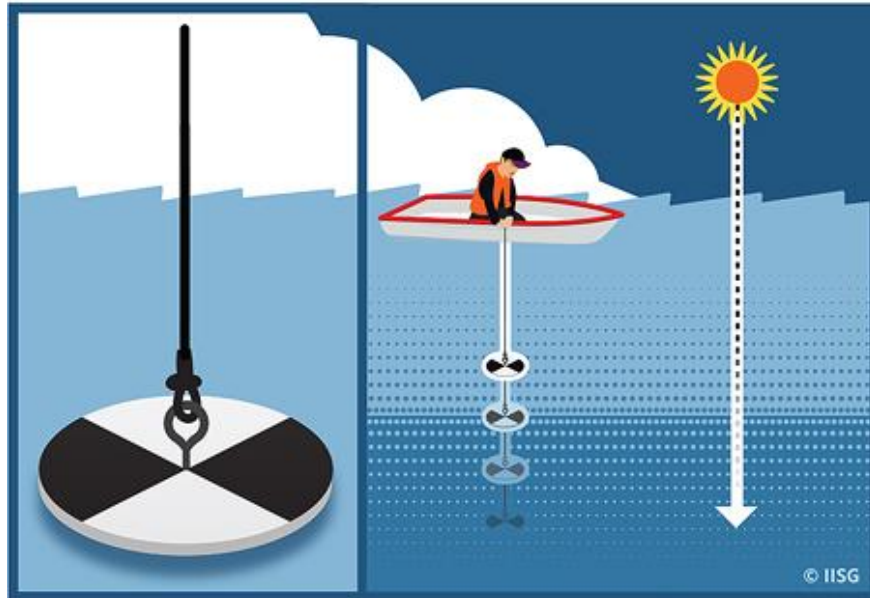
In 2012 the County Board of Commissioners established the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, charging them with the mission to "develop programs and strategies to support and enhance the protection of Otter Tail County Waters." The Task Force "will promote public awareness, education, containment, research, and provide recommendations to the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners."

The Otter Tail County AIS Task Force embraces new ideas and cross border partnerships. These range from the high tech I-LID camera systems at public water accesses, to billboards, drink coasters, and public service announcements developed with our partners and neighbors.

[**MORE**](#)

[**Spencer McGrew**](#) Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist
[**AIS Task Force website**](#)

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OTC COLA's Water Testing Program Draws Multi-County Attention

OTC COLA's over 20-year water testing, analysis and reporting program has earned acclaim from not only Otter Tail County but also from neighboring counties in Minnesota. The program owes its success to OTC COLA Members made up of Lake Associations, Lake Improvement Districts and Lake Property Owners who volunteer to collect water samples several times each summer and support the cost of analysis.

The program has been recognized by Otter Tail County and area news media. OTC COLA recently reported on the program and demonstrated the reporting at a recent Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners meeting in Fergus Falls, MN. The program and notice of the availability of the reports were featured in numerous articles in area newspapers. Other counties in Minnesota have expressed their interest in learning more about OTC COLA's lake water testing program.

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Put The Water Quality Report For Your Lake In Your Lake Association Newsletter

Attention: Lake Association Newsletter Editors

The 2018 OTC COLA Water Quality Analysis Report for your lake is available to include in your Lake Association Newsletter. Here are two ways to do it.

- If you send your newsletters out by email you can insert a key word in your email that will link directly to the pdf file for

your lake.

- If you send out hard copies, include the OTC COLA website address www.ottertailcountycola.org. The link to the library of reports is on the website home page.

These options are not complicated. If you have questions or would like detailed instructions, please let me know.

John Kruse otccola2@gmail.com



Highlights of MAISRC's 2018 Accomplishments

Throughout the year, one of the most frequent questions that I am asked is "can we really do anything about aquatic invasive species?" It's a big question, but it's also one of my favorites because it's why we're here. MAISRC is working with researchers and stakeholders across the state, region, and world to find solutions to AIS, and I can honestly say that there is reason for hope.

At the core of our approach is the idea that we find better solutions more quickly when we work together. Our successes and opportunities are bolstered by the active engagement of local governments, management agencies, property owners, non-profit organizations, lake service providers, and citizens. The experience, knowledge, and energy that you bring to the table are an important part of the work that we do, and I want to thank you for being a part of this effort.

[MORE](#)



Minn. 'Text-To-911' Turns One

Text-to-911 provides a direct lifeline for the 20 percent of Minnesotans who have some form of hearing loss. DPS-ECN has worked closely with the Minnesota Commission of Deaf, Deafblind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans to educate the public about the service.

"Text-to-911 is an alternative lifeline for people who would put themselves in harm's way if they called 911," said DPS-ECN Director Dana Wahlberg. "But it's also clear that Text-to-911 is a solution to the communication barrier for deaf and hard of hearing Minnesotans experiencing an emergency."

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OTC COLA 2018 Highlights Review

2018 was a busy and rewarding year for OTC COLA. The water quality analysis program facilitated by volunteers from each Member lake was a resounding success. Member meetings held

on third Thursdays in May, June, July and August at the Community Center in Ottertail, MN were well attended and enthusiastically received. The COLA ON THE MOVE bus tour of shoreland restorations event in September punctuated the Member informational and educational activity for the year. Administration of water testing for Non-COLA lakes funded by Otter Tail County and the the AIS Task Force helped to reach lake property owners on lakes not yet aligned with COLA. The year was topped off with the publishing of comprehensive lake analysis reports for over 100 lakes in Otter Tail County. Highly notable in 2018 was the formation of North Turtle Lake Association and welcoming them as a new Member of OTC COLA.

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When Is Ice Safe?

There really is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors -- plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.

[MORE](#)



A meeting of the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations was held in Wright County on December 11, 2018. Below are links to information and documents from the meeting. Approved Minutes can be seen at the [MN COLA](#) website.

- [Wright Regional Inspection Program slide show](#)
- [USFS Mining Renewal Comment](#)
- [Pinesands Conversion](#)
- [December 11, 2018 Meeting Secretary's Report](#)

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](#).

OTC AIS Task Force Board Minutes
[December 10, 2018- Draft](#)

OTC Board of Commissioner Minutes
[December 18, 2018- Draft](#)

Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all 2018 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

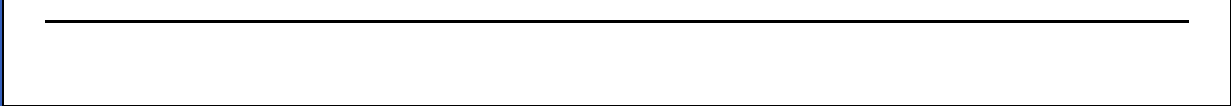
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Eagle Lake Lakeshore Association · East Battle Lake WS Association · Elbow
Lake Association · Franklin Lake Association · Hoffman Lake Association ·
Jewett Lake Association · Lake Lida Property Owners Association · Lake Lizzie
Lakeshore Association · Lake Seven Association · Lake Six Association · Leaf
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Vergas Association · Loon Lake Association · Marion Lake Association ·
McDonald Lake Improvement Association · North Long Lake Association ·
North Turtle Lake Association · Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association
· Pelican Lake Property Owners Association · Pickerel Lake Improvement
Association · Pine Lakes LID · Prairie Lake Lakeshore Association · Round Lake
56-214 · Rush Lake Association · Silent Lakes Association · Silver Lake
Property Owners Association · Stalker Lake Association · Star Lake Property
Owners Association · Stuart Lake Association · Swan Lake Association · Sybil
Lake Association · Tamarac Lake Association · Ten Mile Preservation
Association · Trowbridge-Leek Lake Association · Wall Lake Association · West
Battle Lake Association · West McDonald Lake Association



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