

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

# E-Newsletter November 2019



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## **OTC AIS Task Force Inspections Recap 2019**

The Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force has reported a recap of activity for the 2019 County inspection program.

The 25 inspectors conducted 13,591 inspections including 8,091 entering and 5,500 exiting. Counted during entering inspections 7,801 had their drain plugs out. This showed a compliance with the regulation at a rate of 96.4%.

158 Decontaminations were performed at the Otter Tail Lake Sportsman's Public Water Access. The Decontamination Unit was operational 7 days a week between May 25th and September 6th.

Of the 8091 entering watercraft, 14 were denied launch for mud, 86 for attached plants, 79 for unverified water (water in the boat) and 11 launches were denied due to zebra mussels being attached.

To learn more about the AIS Task Force read the [OTC AIS Task Force Story](#)

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### **DNR Updated Infested Waters List**

The DNR Infested Waters List has been updated for November 1, 2019. The DNR will add a lake, river, pond or wetland to the infested waters list if it contains an aquatic invasive species that could spread to other waters. The DNR may also list a lake, river, pond or wetland as infested if it is connected to a body of water where an aquatic invasive species is present.

About 8% of Minnesota's more than 11,000 lakes are on the infested waters list. Less than 3% of Minnesota lakes are listed as infested with zebra mussels. As of October 2019, we have confirmed zebra mussels in 214 lakes and wetlands. We have listed 194 bodies of water as infested with zebra mussels because they are closely connected to a waterway where zebra mussels have been found.

#### **[MORE](#)**

To see Otter Tail lakes on the Infested Waters List go to [OTC Infested Lakes](#)

To see all MN lakes on the Infested Waters List go to [MN Infested Waters](#)

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## **Zebra Mussels Confirmed In Swan Lake**

Mineral Lake and several small, unnamed lakes connected to and downstream of Swan Lake will also be listed for zebra mussels. All of these lakes flow into North Ten Mile Lake, which was listed for zebra mussels in 2017.

DNR invasive species specialists have conducted several searches of Swan Lake since a lake property owner brought in a dead adult zebra mussel her daughters found while swimming in the lake in July. The DNR conducted a further equipment search Oct. 9 and found one live juvenile zebra mussel about 200 yards from the location of the July report.

Lake property owners should carefully check boats and trailers, docks and lifts, and all other water-related equipment for invasive species when removing equipment for seasonal storage.

Whether or not a lake is listed as infested, Minnesota law requires boaters and anglers to:

- Clean watercraft and trailers of aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- Drain all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
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More information is available at [mndnr.gov/ais](http://mndnr.gov/ais).

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## **Zebra Mussels Confirmed In Big McDonald Lake**

*Sports News* | Published on November 13, 2019 at 10:58am CST | Author: Pelican Rapids Press

A report from a vigilant lake property owner led to the confirmation of zebra mussels in Big McDonald Lake in Otter Tail County.

A property owner sent the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources a photo of a zebra mussel attached to a dock being removed from his property on Big McDonald Lake. DNR invasive species specialists found an additional zebra mussel on a boat lift on an adjacent property.

Big McDonald Lake will be added to the infested waters list for zebra mussels so that people who harvest bait, fish commercially or administer water use take necessary precautions. Other lake users should follow the same “Clean, Drain, Dispose” steps that are always legally required on all water bodies, regardless of whether they are on the infested waters list.

Lake property owners should carefully check boats and trailers, docks and lifts, and all other water-related equipment for invasive species when removing equipment for seasonal storage.

It is especially important to follow Minnesota’s law and keep docks and boat lifts out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them into another body of water.



## **OTC COLA Winds Up 2019 Water Quality Testing Program**

The OTC COLA Water Quality Testing Program for the 2019 season has now been completed. The program included samples taken by volunteers from a total of 65 sites on 52 lakes. There were 44 COLA Members participating in the Program in 2019 with two new Member Associations planning on joining in 2020.

The OTC COLA water quality sampling and analysis program has provided valuable data to lake property owners for over 20 years. Otter Tail County COLA lakes included in the program cover over 70% of Otter Tail County lake acreage. Volunteers from the lakes are an important component of the program collecting the samples and ensuring that the samples get delivered to RMB Laboratories (RMB) in Detroit Lakes, MN.

Water samples are collected once a month for May, June, July, August and September. Activities for the season begin with a kickoff event in April each year. At this event coolers and sample containers are distributed to volunteers. Also at this event volunteers receive training on collection and transmittal of the samples. Wherever possible centralized distribution points are designated reducing the time and expense involved in delivering the samples of multiple lakes to RMB.

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Barry Fitzgibbons, Betty Murphy, Chris LeClair, Spencer McGrew

## County Leaders Share Dock Regulation Experience

County planning and zoning are complex issues that leaders must frequently consider. On Oct. 10-11, the Minnesota Association of County Planning and Zoning Administrators (MACPZA) met to share various topics from their professions. The conference focused on current issues covered by many county planning commissions and boards of adjustment. The MACPZA group meets biannually with this year's fall conference hosted by Otter Tail County Land and Resource Department at Thumper Pond in Ottertail.

[MORE](#)



## DNR AIS Advisory Committee Seeks New Members

The MN DNR has opened up the application process for seats on their AIS Advisory Committee starting in January. Lake association leaders have been on the Advisory Committee since its inception and should continue to have a

significant presence given the importance of AIS to lake associations and COLA's.

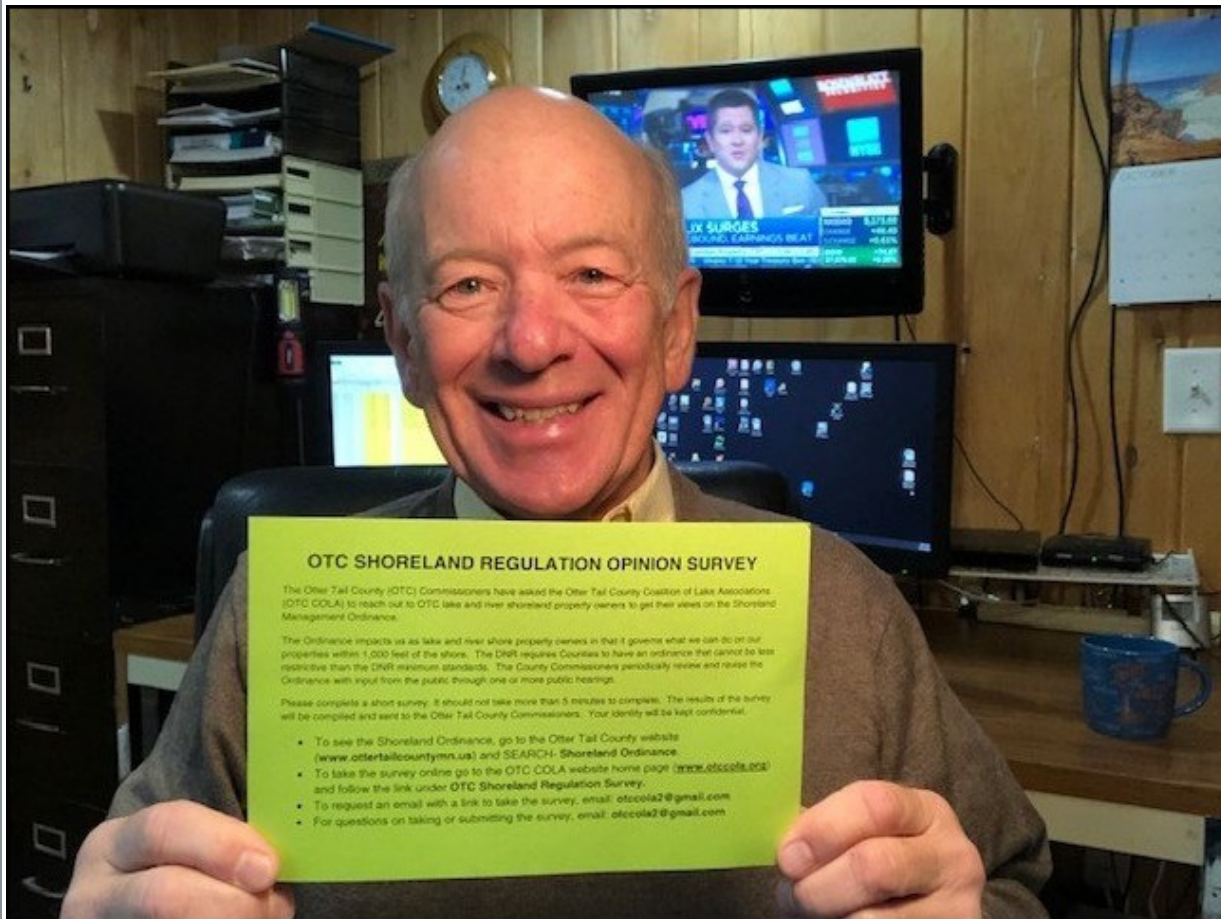
I urge you to find a candidate to apply! [HERE](#) is a link to the on-line application (revised) and the link gives you details of the role. I have pasted some more relevant information below.

This link will take you to the information about the [AIS Advisory Committee](#) on the DNR website. The current committee members are listed along with a short biography for each member.

[Jeff Forester, Executive Director MLR](#)

[Minnesota Lakes and Rivers](#)

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John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

## **Shoreland Ordinance Survey**

The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners asked OTC COLA to reach out to lake and river shore property owners in Otter Tail County to get their views on the Shoreland Management Ordinance.

A large neon-green post card was sent on October 21, 2019 to lake and river property owners in Otter Tail County inviting them to participate in the survey. News posts on the Otter Tail County Facebook and website pages as well as in the OTC COLA E-Newsletter helped drive interest. The response has demonstrated a high degree of interest in property owner's desire to communicate their opinions and suggestions to the Commissioners. Large numbers of responses are still being received every day.

At the appropriate time when it appears that a preponderance of those who desire to submit their survey have done so, the data will be compiled and organized for presentation to the OTC Commissioners.

If you have not done so already, it is not too late to participate in the survey

The Ordinance impacts us as lake and river property owners in that it governs what we can do on our shoreland properties within 1,000 feet of the shore. The DNR requires Counties to have an ordinance that can't be less restrictive than the DNR minimum standards. The County Commissioners periodically review and revise the Ordinance with input from the public through one or more public hearings.

The Ordinance governs minimum lot sizes, setbacks, density, when permits are required, the process of obtaining variances and other requirements and regulations. The full ordinance can be found online at:

<https://ottertailcountymn.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/OTC-Shoreland-Management-Ordinance-SMO-01-15-2017.pdf>

Participating in the survey involves going to the OTC COLA website, [www.otccola.org](http://www.otccola.org) where on the home page there is a link to the survey. Please consider providing your input on shoreland regulations either by following directions on the postcard or going directly to the COLA website from this E-Newsletter. If you experience any problems in doing the survey email [otccola2@gmail.com](mailto:otccola2@gmail.com) for assistance.

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

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### **OTC AIS Task Force Minutes**

- [October 14, 2019 Draft](#)
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### **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [October 1, 2019](#)
  - [October 15, 2019](#)
  - [October 22, 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
- [Lake Property Owner Directories](#)- Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [Interactive Access to OTC GIS](#)- Find addresses, navigate the OTC County map
- [Lawmaker Hotline](#)- Comprehensive contact information for OTC Board of Commissioners to the MN Governor

- [OTC COLA Brochure](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
- **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