

## E-Newsletter May 2020

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## 2020 Water Sampling Kickoff May 28

### Hello Otter Tail COLA Lake Samplers!

What a crazy spring it has been! I hope that you are all staying well!

There are lots of changes occurring with the governor's extended stay at home order, so **PLEASE** make sure to continue watching our website for updates at this link: <https://www.rmbel.info/schedule-2/>. It will be updated at the end of each day, as needed.

Your new **COOLER pick up** day is **THURSDAY, May 28<sup>th</sup>** at the Otter Tail Community Center from 5-7pm. We will be treating the cooler pick up like a curbside pickup. You should not have to leave your car because we will bring

your cooler directly to you. Our staff will be wearing a mask and gloves and will be wiping down each cooler. Please let us know if you have any concerns getting your cooler!

Your new **SAMPLE DROP OFF** schedule is as follows:

**June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**June 29<sup>th</sup>**

July 20<sup>th</sup>

August 17<sup>th</sup>

September 21<sup>st</sup>

**PLEASE NOTE THE FIRST TWO DATES DIFFER FROM YOUR ORIGINAL SCHEDULE!**

The drop off locations are the same as last year, and are located at the following locations:

**Perham Area:**

Duane Lysne

218-346-5378

40810 North Marion Drive

Perham, MN 56573

[ddllysne@eot.com](mailto:ddllysne@eot.com)

**Clitherall / Battle Lake Area**

Mike Allman

KC Lawn

21443 380<sup>th</sup> Ave

Battle Lake, MN 56515

218-864-5318

The **lab will be open** as well, if you choose to bring your sample directly to the lab yourself. Once you get to the lab, please make sure to call the number listed on the door, and a staff member will meet you outside to grab your cooler.

Please make sure to have your cooler to the drop off site on the dates listed above, in yellow **before NOON**. The volunteers that will be driving the samples to the lab, leave at NOON!

**Ellie Kriese:** [ellie.kriese@rmbel.info](mailto:ellie.kriese@rmbel.info)

**Jeff Vansteenburgh:** [jeffrey.vansteenburgh@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey.vansteenburgh@gmail.com)

641-420-0928





## **Minnesota Fishing License Sales Continue Sharp Climb, Now Over 320K**

As of Friday, May 1, the DNR had sold 320,523 fishing licenses in their various forms, from one-day passes to non-resident lifetime licenses and everything in between. That compares to 255,516 licenses sold at the same time in 2019.

That's a 48% increase.

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## **Anglers Can Prevent The Spread Of AIS**

Along with taking care to follow social distancing guidelines while fishing and boating, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources said it's also important to take a few minutes for invasive species prevention every time a boat comes out of the water.

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## **2020 Egg Take Operations Canceled**

The DNR will cancel its 2020 egg take operations for walleye, northern pike, muskellunge and steelhead because the work cannot be done safely under COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. The missed year of stocking will have minimal long-term impact on angling, fish populations

Collecting eggs and sperm from spawning fish in the wild is a labor intensive effort that requires teams of 6-8 people working in close proximity. After a careful examination of whether the egg take process could be re-engineered, DNR determined that it was not possible to safely handle fish during the egg take and practice appropriate social distancing to protect staff from COVID-19.

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## Practice Social Distancing On The Water

As boaters across Minnesota prepare to hit the water, they need to keep in mind tips for being safe on cold water as well as their responsibility for staying close to home and practicing socially distancing under Gov. Tim Walz's "Stay at Home" executive order.

"As Minnesotans, we have a natural urge to get outside this time of year – and for many of us, that's especially true this spring," said Rodmen Smith, DNR Enforcement Division director. "We constantly remind people about ways they can stay safe while they're on the water. In light of COVID-19, we also ask this year that you take additional steps to protect yourself, your family, and the people around you."

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## Local Counties Added to DNR's Burning Restriction list

[https://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/sports/outdoors/local-counties-added-to-dnr-s-burning-restriction-list/article\\_3c7b4dc4-73b3-11ea-8a46-f33a78bd8cc1.html](https://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/sports/outdoors/local-counties-added-to-dnr-s-burning-restriction-list/article_3c7b4dc4-73b3-11ea-8a46-f33a78bd8cc1.html)

As fire season expands, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has added the following counties to the burn restriction list:

Clay, Douglas, Grant, Norman, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin.

The state will not issue burning permits for brush or yard waste in these counties until these restrictions are lifted. A variance permit may be obtained for special agricultural, industrial, or management circumstances like a prescribed burn.

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## **Minnesota Effort To Slow Aquatic Invasive Species Is Working**

[www.Inforum.com](http://www.Inforum.com)

Most boaters are taking action to slow the spread of aquatic invasive species, and only 8% of Minnesota lakes are infested.

Every year more lakes are infested with zebra mussels, starry stonewort, spiny water fleas, Eurasian water milfoil and more. Asian carp are moving up the Mississippi River system, and snakehead fish — that breathe out of water and can move on land — aren't far away.

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## **Pandemic Puts Fisheries Staff In A Bind**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has feared what a drop in license sales would mean for the department's budget and operating capacity. Nonresident license sales also play an important role in funding operations, and the level to which the pandemic affects anglers coming into the state this summer remains to be seen, but Beck was glad to see the early numbers.

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## Minnesota's Native Mussels: Still In Peril

The small, hard-shelled sentinels of Minnesota's river health are in crisis.

Twenty-eight of Minnesota's roughly 50 native mussel species are considered endangered, threatened or of special concern. Because of mussels' key role in the aquatic ecosystem, their decline puts the state's rivers and streams at risk of poorer water quality.

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## What's So Bad About AIS?

What are some of the current AIS threats to Minnesota? Read a quick overview of **Zebra and quagga mussels, Eurasian water milfoil, Starry stonewort, Spiny Waterfles, Silver bighead and Grass carp**. What's next? Experts are worried about **Snakehead fish, Water soldier** and **Hydrilla**.

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## Changes to Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections Published

Due to COVID-19, Otter Tail County Household Hazardous Waste Mobile Collections for May have been rescheduled for August. Please continue to check our website for program updates over the coming weeks:

<https://ottertailcountymn.us/content-page/news-you-can-reuse/>

[MORE- HHW April 2020 Newsletter](#)

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- [March 20, 2020 COVID](#)
- [March 24, 2020](#)
- [March 27, 2020 COVID](#)
- [March 31, 2020 COVID](#)
- [April 3, 2020 COVID](#)
- [April 7, 2020](#)
- [April 9, 2020 COVID](#)
- [April 14, 2020](#)
- [April 17, 2020 COVID](#)
- [April 21, 2020 COVID](#)
- [April 28, 2020](#)

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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 168 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
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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant