

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

# E-Newsletter August 2020



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## In This Issue:

- **Shoreland / Septic Ordinance Survey Results**
- **It's Not Too Early- 2021 Directories**
- **Zebra Mussel Cops**
- **Zebra Mussel Fears Mellow**
- **Reporting Fish Die-Offs Helps the DNR**
- **Pelican River Runs Free- 84 Miles**
  - [www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org) -August posts
- **AIS Task Force Minutes**
- **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**
- **Instant Access Links -**
  - [Newsletter Article Index](#)
  - [Water Quality Analysis Reports](#)
  - [Lake Property Owner Directories](#)
  - [Interactive Access to OTC GIS maps](#)
  - [Lawmaker Hotline](#)

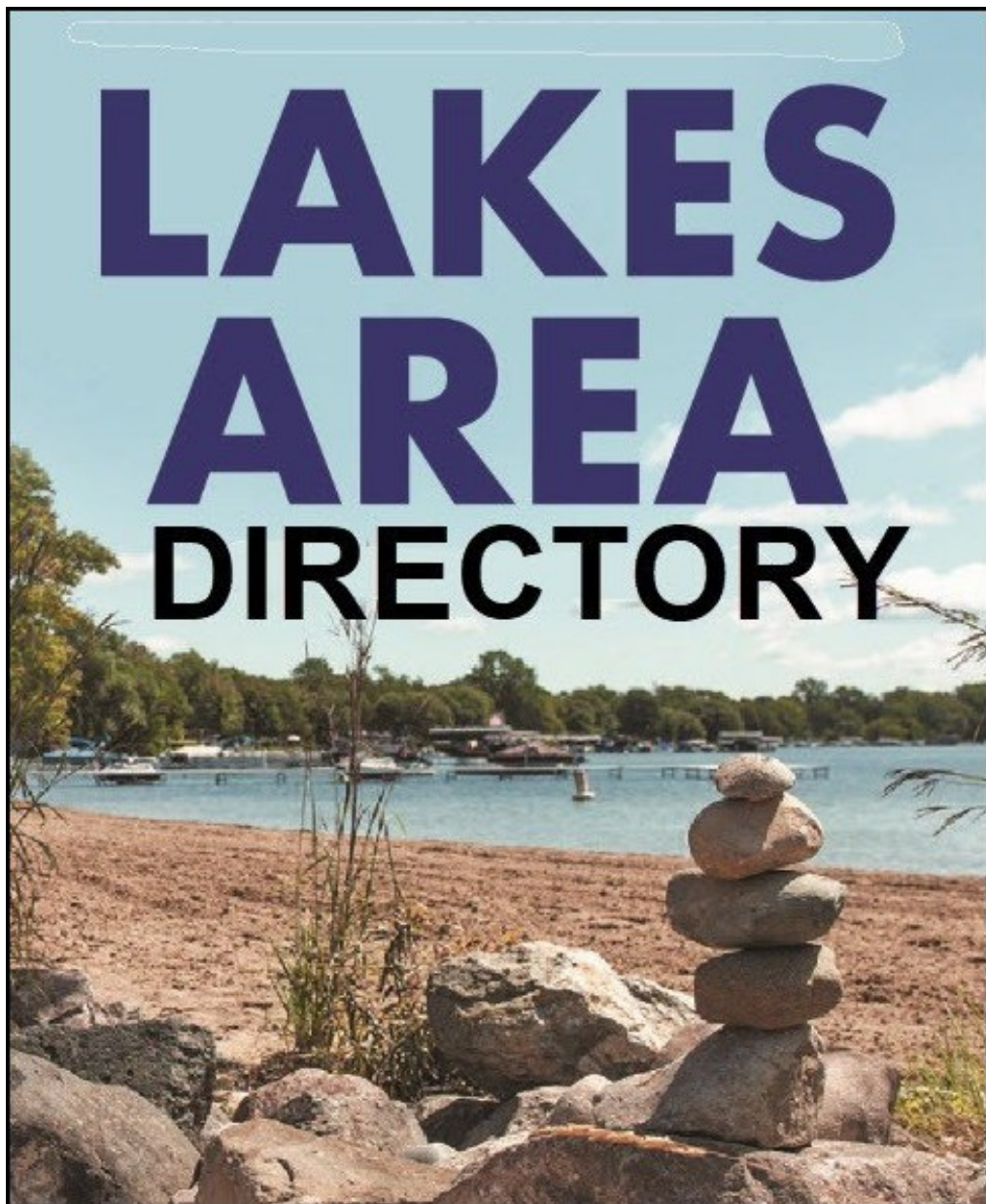


## Otter Tail County Shoreland And Septic System Ordinances Survey Results

At the request of the Otter Tail County (OTC) Board of Commissioners OTC COLA conducted a survey of OTC lake and river property owners on the Shoreland and Septic Ordinances. The survey consisted of multiple choice questions and opportunity to give extensive comments. Over one thousand responses were received and compiled.

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### It's Not Too Early- 2021 Directories

It's not too early to start thinking about how 2021 Lake Association Directories can help lake property owners cope with these trying times. [Enhanced Lake Association Directories](#) can make a profound contribution to raising the spirits of friends and neighbors at the lake.

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## **Zebra Mussel Cops**

### **Inspection efforts continue at Otter Tail's 134 boat landings**

Watercraft inspectors are hired annually by the Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force. They work closely with County AIS Task Force Specialist Spencer McGrew.

Now and then they receive assistance from county sheriff deputies.

There are 134 public accesses in Otter Tail County. It's at some of those locations where boat inspections take place each summer and early fall.

Before leaving a lake, fishermen are required to drain water from boats, motors, and live-wells.

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## **Zebra Mussel Fears Mellow For Some As Prevention Efforts Slow Spread**

PELICAN LAKE, Minn. — When zebra mussels showed up in Pelican Lake in Otter Tail County, Minn., about a decade ago, their arrival sparked alarm.

The invasive species, which at its largest grows to about the size of a sunflower seed shell, has a sharp-edged shell that attaches to hard surfaces, both natural and man-made, like boat lifts and dock stands.

When the aquatic invader reached Pelican Lake, stories soon spread about children suffering cuts on their bare feet and, because the mussels are extremely good at filtering algae from the water, anglers were concerned about the impacts on the lake's food chain.

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## **Reporting Fish Die-Offs Helps The DNR And Others Respond When Needed**

“It can be unsettling and concerning to find a number of dead fish,” said Tom Burri, limnology consultant with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources who deals with water quality issues related to fisheries. “We hope people will help us out by reporting dead fish right away so we can determine if an investigation is needed.”

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## **Watching The River Flow**

Lizzie, Prairie dam projects completed; by 2025, Pelican River could run free

for 84 miles.

With the completion of the Prairie and Lizzie dam modifications, The Pelican River is almost free.

Only three dams remain from Detroit Lakes to Fergus Falls—including the Pelican Rapids city dam, which sits above the “World’s Largest Pelican.” The Pelican Rapids dam modification is pending, though the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors have clouded the timeline somewhat.

To the south, the Elizabeth dam is in the unique position of being privately owned. Reportedly, the DNR has made some inroads with the landowner.

It is probable that the Pelican River will be dam free by 2025.

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### **New Posts - August 2020**

- [Introducing www.lakeadmin.org](#)
- [Enhanced Lake Association Directories](#)

[www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org)

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

- [July 13, 2020](#) Draft
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### **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [July 14, 2020](#)
  - [July 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
- [OTC COLA Brochure](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant