

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

# E-Newsletter

## April 2024

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# UPCOMING EVENTS!

## Upcoming Events For 2024

OTC COLA is looking forward to an exciting lake season in 2024. The Board of Directors have been working hard to put together programs and activities to attract and engage Lake Associations and lake property owners. The emphasis this year is to increase OTC COLA awareness and outreach to all lake property owners.

### Currently scheduled events.

Water monitoring kickoff and meeting events are scheduled to be held at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail, MN on 3rd Thursdays, April, May, June, July and August.

- April 18- Water monitoring kickoff for distributing sample coolers
  - May 16- Lake property owners meeting
    - Featured speaker: Heather Jacobson, OTC Tax Assessor
  - June 20- Lake property owners meeting
    - Featured speaker: Chuck Becker, [safewakes.org](http://safewakes.org)
  - July 18- Lake property owners meeting
    - Featured speaker: Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Executive Director
  - August 15- OTC COLA Annual Meeting and lake property owners meeting.
    - Featured speaker: Nicholas Kludt, MN DNR Fisheries- DNR rock rapids
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## **OTC COLA Lake Monitoring Program Kickoff**

The distribution of the sample coolers, bottles and data sheets to sampler volunteers will take place Thursday, April 18 from 5:00 to 7:00 at the Ottertail Community Center parking lot.

[Jeff Vansteenburg](#), OTC COLA Environmental Director, 641-420-0928

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## **RMB 2024 Lakes Monitoring Program**

The RMB Laboratories 2024 Lakes Monitoring Program has been released. The OTC COLA Members program will be offering the same centralized distribution centers as in previous years. Invoices to Lake Associations for OTC COLA Membership dues and water monitoring fees include the discounted annual per site analysis rate of \$335 for the five monthly samples.

If samplers are still using the grab method of collecting samples they are encouraged to look at using the [integrated depth sample device method](#). The grab method collects samples from only the top six to eight inches of water. It is preferable to get a representative sample that is taken from a larger portion of the water column. Most samplers use an integrated depth sampling device.

[Jeff Vansteenburg](#), OTC COLA Environmental Director, 641-420-0928

[2024 RMB Water Monitoring Program](#)

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Sylvia Soeth, OTC COLA President

## **OTC COLA Presents Goals To Otter Tail County Commissioners**

*By Tom Hintgen  
Otter Tail County Correspondent*

Addressing county commissioners on March 12 was Sylvia Soeth, president of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA).

Soeth pointed out the efforts of COLA members over the past 10 years to fight the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and recent efforts to promote lakescaping and other shoreline preservation programs. These efforts help slow erosion, decrease ice damage, and increase rain infiltration.

County commissioners expressed appreciation for OTC COLA. “We commend OTC COLA for its many years of working to protect the lakes and also rivers here in Otter Tail County,” said county board Chairman Kurt Mortenson of rural Underwood.

**[MORE](#)**

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## OTC COLA Speaker Team

Members of the OTC COLA Board of Directors will be available to speak at Lake Association meetings in 2024. OTC COLA is fortunate to have a Board consisting of individuals having a variety of talents, experience and expertise in technical and administrative fields. Supplemental literature and other various handouts are being developed providing valuable take-aways from the events.

To reserve a speaker for your event please contact John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant. We will do our best to accommodate scheduling requests.

**[John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant](mailto:John.Kruse@otc.org)**  
**701-219-0465**





## Minnesota Lakes & Rivers March Newsletter

[View In Browser](#)

MLR is committed to preserving our lakes' vitality. By participating in conferences and fostering dialogue, we address challenges together. Let's celebrate our love for Minnesota's lakes this summer, standing up for our water and protecting these treasures for future generations.

### In This Issue:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Snow Shortage Spurs Lake Invaders</li><li>• Resilience for Lake Organizations</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comparing Boat Cleaning Systems</li><li>• Time to Weigh in On Muskie Stock Programs</li></ul> |
|---|---|

- MN Legislative Update
- Supporting Wave Research With The St. Anthony Falls Lab
- Empowering Communities: Emily Mine Information Group
- Lake Steward- Clean Water Healthy Habitat
- Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates Q&A
- Get Involved- Events and Developments

### [Minnesota Lakes & Rivers](#)

**Jeff Forester, Executive Director**

- Jeff Forester will be the featured speaker at OTC COLA's July 18, 2024 lake property owners meeting (see Upcoming Events above).



## NSF invests \$9.8M to advance equitable water solutions

**NSF Convergence Accelerator program selects 15 teams to develop innovative technologies and solutions to improve U.S. freshwater systems.**

The U.S. National Science Foundation is advancing equitable water solutions, investing \$9.8 million in 15 multidisciplinary teams selected for Phase 1 of the NSF Convergence Accelerator program's Track K: Equitable Water Solutions.

In 2022, 2.2 billion people lacked safely managed drinking water; 3.5 billion people lacked safely-managed sanitation; and 2 billion people lacked a basic handwashing facility, according to the National Institutes of Health. It is estimated that billions of people will lack access to these basic services by 2030, unless viable and proactive solutions are developed.

[US National Science Foundation](#)

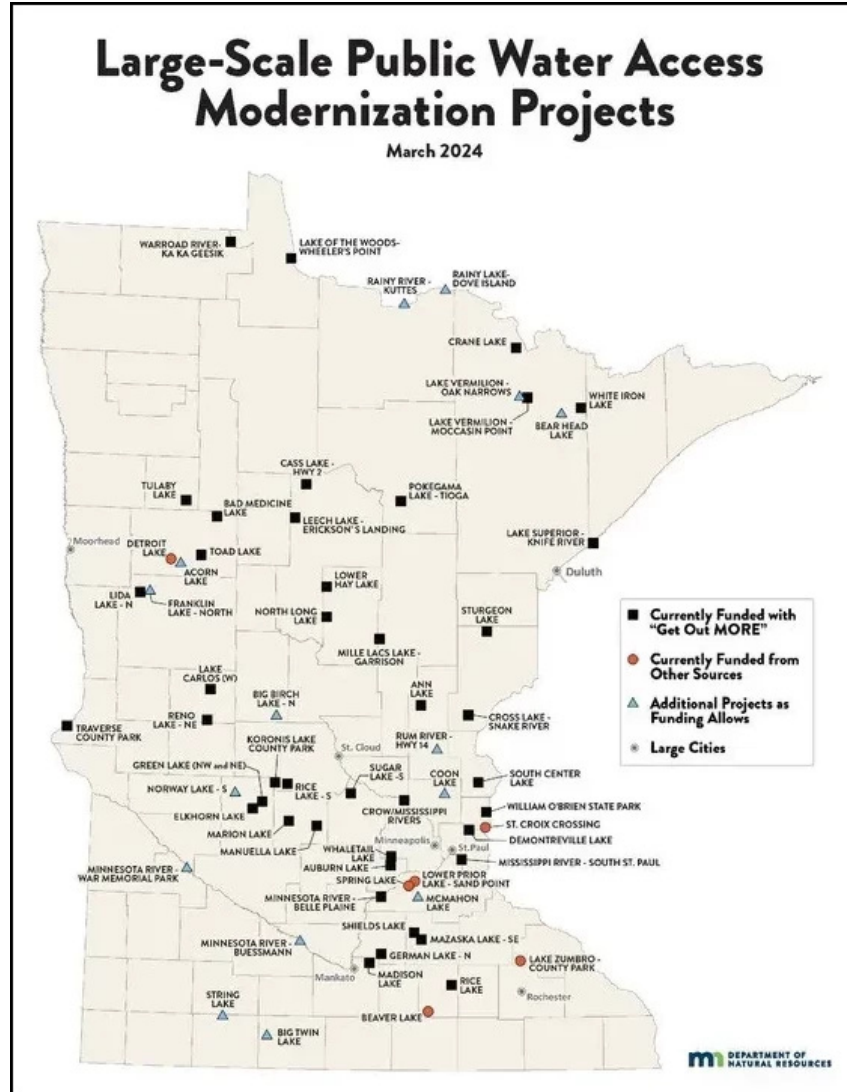
[MORE](#)



The **Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center** is excited to share an opportunity to get up close and person with aquatic invasive species: **monthly tours in our containment lab!**

Join us the last Wednesday of each month from 3:00 - 4:00pm for a guided tour of the **Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center Containment Lab (MCL)**, where you'll get an inside look at our state-of-the-art facility and discover the innovative research underway. It's a perfect opportunity for individuals curious about the world of science. Large group or a special occasion? Use the sign up form to request a custom tour!

[MORE](#)



## DNR Announces Plans for \$35M Boat Access Modernization

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has identified more than 40 public water access sites throughout the state for extensive upgrades; smaller-scale improvements to more than 75 additional accesses are also anticipated. The work is part of the once-in-a-generation Get Out MORE (Modernize Outdoor Recreation Experiences) investments approved by the legislature and signed by Governor Tim Walz in 2023.

[MORE](#)





## **Muskies Are Native With No Adverse Impact**

One of the largest and most elusive fish that swims in Minnesota, this apex aquatic predator is known as the "fish of 10,000 casts."

Muskies may indeed be elusive. But it is their low numbers in a lake – not craftiness – that makes them hard to catch. That's true in waters where they naturally occur and where DNR stocks them.

Many anglers are attracted to muskie because of their potential to get big. That same potential draws concern from others who believe the diets of bigger fish make fewer fish available to anglers. Despite the muskie's potential to attain large sizes, studies of predator diets and fish communities that contain muskie found [muskie do not adversely impact gamefish populations](#).

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

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## **Fishing Regulations Updated In Online Version**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has updated the online version of the 2024 Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet to address an omission and make two corrections.

On pages 7 and 29, an omitted regulation was added. Anglers fishing in open water in the Minnesota River downstream of the Granite Falls dam and in the intrastate portion of the Mississippi River downstream of St. Anthony Falls may use two lines. This regulation has been in effect since July 1, 2023. Anglers

must continue to use one line when fishing other inland waters (including rivers) or Canada-Minnesota border waters. Two lines are also permitted for anglers on Minnesota border waters with Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Two lines are also allowed statewide when fishing through the ice.

Additionally, on page 14, the age range for anglers requiring a trout stamp was incorrectly listed; it is 18-64. And, on page 66, the beginning closure date for the fish sanctuary on the St. Louis River Estuary was incorrectly listed; it is March 1.

The online fishing regulations booklet and more information about fishing in Minnesota are available on the [Minnesota DNR website](http://mndnr.gov/fishing) (mndnr.gov/fishing).

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### **Catch And Release Tips**

Responsible catch-and-release fishing can help ensure continued quality fishing opportunities. Anglers can boost the odds of fish surviving catch and release by using methods that avoid internal damage caused by hooks, stress and being pulled from deep water.

[MORE](#)

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### **Launching Boats Might Be Difficult**

Minnesota boaters could find launching watercraft difficult this spring due to low water levels on many lakes and rivers. The lack of snow this winter and persistent dry conditions have left lakes without the normal spring recharge.

[MORE](#)



## **MN COLA April 2024 Update**

MN COLA held their most recent member meeting on March 19. A robust group of 47 attended the online meeting.

Interested in an inside look at MAISRC's state-of-the-art facility and discover the innovative research underway? Register for a lab tour of the MAISRC (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center) facility. <https://form.asana.com/?k=Ua3KramhzBkS2feUnuWQpw&d=939683240123509>

Read about the Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory's "Healthy Waters Initiative," researching the potential impacts of boat-generated waves and propeller wash on Minnesota's lakes. [https://cse.umn.edu/safl/Healthy\\_Waters](https://cse.umn.edu/safl/Healthy_Waters)

Go [HERE](#) for a review of the benefits of joining MN COLA

[MNCOLA.ORG](https://mncola.org)

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[Contact MN COLA](#)

[David Helgerson](#), OTC COLA Director Liaison with MN COLA

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**OTTER TAIL**  
COUNTY - MINNESOTA

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## **AIS Task Force April 2024 Update**

- **On track for the 2024 season**
- **New rinse stations coming online**
- **AIS Tool Project ready to be launched**
- **AIS Handbooks are now ready for distribution**
- **Dock and Lift registration requirement**

[MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew](#), OTC AIS Specialist

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**2023 PROGRAM  
SUMMARY**

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[AIS Prevention Aid Program Snapshot 2023](#)  
[AIS Prevention 2023 Report](#)

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Click on image for Handbook

## **AIS Handbooks Second Printing**

The enthusiastically acclaimed AIS Handbook sponsored by the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force is now available. The Handbook will be distributed to lake property owners, resort owners, and civic organizations in Otter Tail County. Quantities can be reserved from Otter Tail County Land & Resource 218-998-8095. Besides disseminating AIS prevention best practices in the Handbooks, the AIS prevention information will also be published in area newspapers and included in social media posts.

[\*\*AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents\*\*](#)

[\*\*AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents Cover\*\*](#)

[\*\*Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County AIS Specialist\*\*](#)

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## **AIS Task Force Board Minutes**

- [\*\*February 8, 2024\*\*](#)

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## **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [\*\*February 27, 2024\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*March 12, 2024\*\*](#)
  - [\*\*March 26, 2024\*\*](#)
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[AIS \\* Water Quality \\* Administration \\* Regulation](#)

## **Featured Posts - April 2024**

- [The Case for Water Quality Monitoring](#)
- [What Is the Trophic State Index?](#)
- [Shoreline Management & Development](#)

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## **Instant Access Links**

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all OTC COLA E-Newsletters from 2018.
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2023 samples- Individual reports for 60 OTC COLA Lakes](#)
- [Lake Property Owner Directories \(2019\)](#)- Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [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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### **OTC COLA Board of Directors**

David Helgerson · Jeff Stabnow · Jeff Vansteenburgh  
Roger Neitzke · Ronald Christensen · Scott Gaudette · Sylvia Soeth

### **OTC COLA Members**

Bass Lake Underwood Association · Berger Lake Association · Big McDonald LID · Boedigheimer Lake Association · Clitherall Lake Association · Dead Lake Association · Devils Lake Association · Eagle Lake Lakeshore Association · East Battle Lake WS Association · Elbow Lake Association · Franklin Lake

Association · Hoffman Lake Association · Jewett Lake Association · Lida Lakes Improvement District · Lake Lizzie Lakeshore Association · Lake Seven Association · Lake Six Association · Leaf Lakes Association · Little McDonald Kerbs and Paul Lakes LID · Long Lake at 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 · Pebble Lake Lakeshore 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 · South Turtle Lake Improvement District · Spitzer 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 · Wymer Lake Association

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