



The **MNDNR Aquatic Invasive Species Program** requests your help in monitoring the zebra mussel population of White Bear Lake! This fall, as boatlifts are removed from the lake, we are asking residents to count zebra mussels. This effort is a part of a long-term study of zebra mussels which includes annual estimates of larval abundance, adult population size, and annual recruitment of juveniles.

**We want you to count zebra mussels because** your boatlift goes into the water in the spring with no mussels on it—thus it serves as a great way to sample the number of new mussels that settle throughout the summer. It is important to know how many juveniles we have so that we can understand what the adult population might look like next year.

**We are asking you to** count the number of zebra mussels that have settled on a small area of your boatlift over the summer months.

1. Locate a flat area of your boatlift that remains submerged throughout the entire summer and is not located on the bottom (one side of a cross member works well—pads, feet, and round poles are a bad choice) .
2. Measure out the size of that piece of your boatlift (length and width) and count the number of zebra mussels that are within that area (**only count what you are sure are zebra mussels**—if you are in question about something, a magnifying glass will often help to see the characteristic shape and coloration).
3. Record the size of the area and the number of mussels found as well as three dates: the **date your boatlift was put in** (approximate is fine), the **date your boatlift was pulled out**, and the **date that you counted the mussels** (we suggest you count on the same day that you pull the lift out of the water because the mussels are much easier to see when they are freshly removed from the water).
4. Scrape the mussels off of the area you counted to create a clean slate for next summer's juveniles (only necessary if you would like to participate next year).
5. Return your data to the MNDNR by November 30 via email at [April.Londo@state.mn.us](mailto:April.Londo@state.mn.us), or by mail to the address on the next page.



Photos courtesy of HewittParts.com, the University of Wisconsin, and Minnesota Public Radio





MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CENTRAL REGION

1200 WARNER ROAD

SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

651-259-5800

Size of area( inches): \_\_\_\_ wide \_\_\_\_ long      Number of mussels in area: \_\_\_\_

Date boatlift was put in: \_\_\_\_\_ Date boatlift was removed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date mussels were counted (if different from date boatlift was removed): \_\_\_\_\_

Address where boatlift was over the summer (so we know where the mussels live):

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name and contact info (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**STOP AQUATIC  
HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

Return to:  
April Londo  
Aquatic Invasive Species Program  
MN Department of Natural Resources  
1200 Warner Road  
Saint Paul, MN 55106  
[April.Londo@state.mn.us](mailto:April.Londo@state.mn.us) (651) 259-5861

