



Fisheries Branch/Resource Management & Protection Division
Natural Resources and Northern Development
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NOTICE: Update on Aquatic Invasive Species – Foot Print Lake & Cedar Lake

Foot Print Lake Spiny Waterflea Detection:

Spiny Waterflea, an aquatic invasive species, was detected in five samples taken from Foot Print Lake (near Grand Rapids, MB) through monitoring conducted by Manitoba's Aquatic Invasive Species Unit during the 2022 open-water season. The sample was confirmed in the laboratory in late November, 2022.

Spiny Waterflea (SWF) are small (1-1.5 cm) predacious zooplankton with a long, barbed tail. They are native to Eurasia and were originally introduced to North America via ballast water of ocean-crossing ships into the Great Lakes. They are a concern to Manitoba because they can:

- Multiply very quickly and reproduce both sexually and asexually by cloning.
- Affect the feeding of commercially and recreationally important fishes directly by filling the gut of fishes with largely indigestible matter that makes the fishes feel satiated but not well-nourished.
- Consume large quantities of zooplankton which are a vital part of the aquatic food chain and the food source for native fish species.
- Both the eggs and the SWF themselves can be easily transported to new water bodies by human movement. For example, they can be present in standing water in watercraft or water-related equipment (e.g. bait buckets) or become entangled in fishing gear.
- Once introduced they cannot be eradicated. There are no known pesticides or eradication techniques to address SWF in a waterbody.

A total of 25 SWF were found in five out of seven samples collected from seven different locations within Foot Print Lake. A detection of this quantity indicates there could be an established or reproducing population in the lake. The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Unit initiated a response protocol which includes communicating to interest holders, such as yourself, as well as developing and implementing a containment plan.

Human transport of contaminated watercraft and water-related equipment is the primary way AIS are spread to new water bodies. The introduction of SWF to Foot Print Lake could likely have been prevented.

Cedar Lake Zebra Mussel Update:

You may recall being informed in September, 2021 of the detection of Zebra Mussel veligers (larval stage) in the Cross Bay portion of Cedar Lake. This was the first

detection of the species since the initial detection in 2015. The 2021 samples detected higher numbers than the 2015 samples.

In 2022, the numbers of veligers collected increased and were found at more locations within Cross Bay than in 2021. Adult Zebra Mussels were also detected for the first time in Cross Bay as well as at the Grand Rapids generating station. The finding of adult mussels in the Cross Bay area confirms there is a reproducing Zebra Mussel population in this portion of Cedar Lake. No Zebra Mussels have been detected in Cedar Lake proper.

Further spread into Cedar Lake proper can be avoided as Zebra Mussels are unable to move against the flow of water without human help. The best way to minimize the risk of Zebra Mussel spread into Cedar Lake proper from Cross Bay, is to avoid moving watercraft and equipment between these two areas.

As a reminder, Cedar Lake is designated as an AIS Control Zone which requires users of Cedar Lake to:

- decontaminate watercraft and water-related equipment *before* these items are placed into another water body
- dispose of bait that:
 - is live
 - has been handled (i.e., hooked)
 - has come into contact with surface water from a control zone

Note: Commercially-supplied dead bait that has **not** come into contact with surface water from a water body in an AIS Control Zone can be retained by anglers for future use.

The human-caused spread of AIS is preventable. Simple quick actions (e.g., Clean, Drain, Dry) can prevent the largely irreversible, negative consequences of AIS. To learn what you can do to protect water bodies from AIS, visit: Manitoba.ca/StopAIS.

If you have any questions about either of these detections or the Province's response please contact Kayla Peterniak, Aquatic Invasive Species Ecologist at 204-791-3809 or kayla.peterniak@gov.mb.ca. Please circulate this notice as necessary within your organization and community.

Thank-you for your assistance.