



Conservation and Enhancement
of Freshwater Fisheries

www.fishfutures.net

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Fish News

KEEP ZEBRA MUSSELS OUT OF MANITOBA!

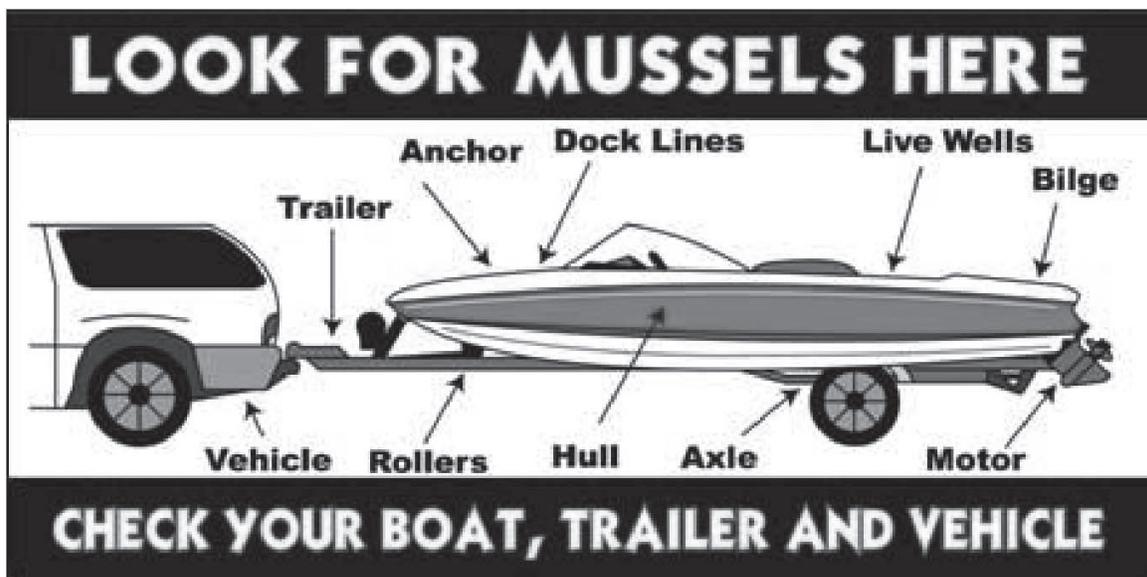


Illustration credit - California Department of Fish and Game

Reduce the risk of accidentally transporting zebra mussels into Manitoba waters:

- Drain all bilge water, live wells, and bait buckets.**
- Inspect all equipment.**
- Scrape off all 'grainy' surfaces**
- Wash boats and equipment with hot, soapy water.**
- Dry equipment in the hot sun for 3 to 5 days.**
- Read article on page 3 to learn more.**



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In This Issue

Save the Outdoors Page..... 2
Zebra Mussel Alert 3
What is Fish Futures?..... 4
Banquet 2010..... 4
Youth Art Competition..... 4
Important Dates..... 4

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SAVE THE OUTDOORS PAGE
CONTACT THE WINNIPEG FREE PRESS TO VOICE YOUR SUPPORT

Some of you may have noticed that the Outdoors Page, which we are sure most of you look forward to reading every week, was not in the February 6th edition of the Winnipeg Free Press. We understand that it will not be part of the paper for the duration of the Vancouver Winter Olympics. This is understandable, given the extensive media coverage that a special event of this magnitude deserves.

However, Fish Futures also understands that the Winnipeg Free Press is reviewing whether or not the Outdoors Page will return to the Saturday edition, or to the paper at all, after the Olympics. In our opinion, the Outdoors Page as presently configured, with articles by Don Lamont and Bob Sopuck, MUST remain in the Winnipeg Free Press, and preferably in the Saturday edition, for the following reasons:

- 1. the Outdoors Page is unique in Manitoba, and reaches a significant readership of anglers, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts across the province every week;
2. Don's articles often focus on projects funded through Manitoba's Fisheries Enhancement Fund, thereby providing anglers with timely information on how their \$5.00 per license that goes into the FEF is being spent to conserve and enhance Manitoba's recreational fisheries;
3. the FEF is currently funding a significant number of projects that are focusing on the promotion of youth angling across the province, and we know that Don wants to bring all of these projects to the attention of Winnipeg Free Press readers, and not just anglers and hunters, in the coming months;
4. Don's articles also bring to the attention of anglers across the province issues of concern to all anglers, thereby ensuring that these issues can be proactively responded to in a timely manner; and
5. Bob's articles serve the same purpose for the hunters in this province, many of whom also fish and all of whom share our passion for the great outdoors.

Given the leadership position that Fish Futures took in creating the FEF and that it continues to take in further developing and expanding the FEF, it is critical that we not lose such an important communication vehicle.

Please go to the Winnipeg Free Press website, which can be found at www.winnipegfreepress.com, click the 'contact us' link, and send them an email message telling them how much you enjoy the Outdoors Page and imploring them to continue with the Outdoors Page, as presently constituted, as soon as the Olympic coverage is over. Alternatively, if email isn't your favored form of communication, you could call the Winnipeg Free Press, or send them a letter or fax. It doesn't matter to us how you contact them; what is important is that you do so!

Thanks in advance from everyone at Fish Futures!

KEEP ZEBRA MUSSELS OUT OF MANITOBA!

SEPT. 2009 - FOUND IN RED RIVER WATERSHED

In September, zebra mussels were found established in Pelican Lake, Minnesota. This body of water is within the Red River watershed that flows north into Manitoba as part of the Hudson Bay Drainage Basin. This discovery significantly increases the risk of introduction and possible establishment of zebra mussels in Manitoba waters.

Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*) have become widely distributed in eastern North America since their introduction into Lake St. Clair in 1986. They are an aquatic invasive species that can out-compete native species for food and other resources, disrupt food webs, destroy habitats, and can impact local economies.

Zebra mussels have the potential for exponential growth. They evolved elsewhere and are not subject to natural pressures such as predators, parasites, and diseases that would otherwise keep populations in balance. Over a lifetime, one mature female can produce up to one million eggs. In their larvae form, zebra mussels are invisible to the naked eye and can drift through the water for 8 to 30 days over several kilometres. At this stage, anglers may take larvae into their bait buckets or live wells and then transport them to other water bodies.

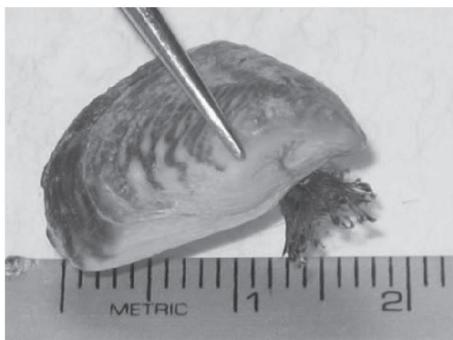
Zebra mussels can impact fish stocks. They are filter feeders that deplete the water of microscopic organisms. This creates less food for larval and juvenile fishes that support sport and commercial fisheries. Zebra mussels can filter enough particulate matter from the water column to increase water clarity. While this may seem like a welcomed impact, increased water clarity has caused excessive aquatic plant growth and has changed the population dynamics of native fish species.

Zebra mussels can impact the recreational value of beaches, cottages and other park areas. Dead and rotting zebra mussels smell bad and their sharp shells can cut the feet of swimmers. Zebra mussels also have an economic impact on facilities that use raw surface water, such as utilities and water treatment plants. Zebra mussel larvae produce byssal threads that bond to the insides of water intake pipes, wells, and screens. They colonize and clog the systems.

Boaters can reduce the risk of accidentally transporting zebra mussels into Manitoba waters by:

- Draining all bilge water, live wells, and bait buckets.
- Inspecting all equipment.
- Scraping off all 'grainy' surfaces - they could be young zebra mussels.
- Washing boats and equipment with hot, soapy water.
- Drying equipment in the hot sun for 3 to 5 days.

Special thanks to Wendy Ralley from the Water Quality Management section of Manitoba Water Stewardship. For further information on zebra mussels, please call 945-8146.



Zebra mussel specimen with byssal threads
(Photo credit: Minnesota Sea Grant)



Zebra mussel colonizing native clam
(Photo credit: Wisconsin Sea Grant)

What is Fish Futures Inc.?



**Conservation and Enhancement
of Freshwater Fisheries**

Fish Futures Inc. is a non-profit, registered charitable organization dedicated to the conservation and enhancement of freshwater fisheries through:

- Sponsorship, development and encouragement of research projects.
- Habitat preservation, enhancement and management projects.
- Public education to increase awareness of the value of freshwater fisheries and the need for conservation and enhancement of fish stocks and habitat.

Fish Futures is managed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of members of the public and representatives of government, industry and the scientific community.

For more information about Fish Futures Inc. please contact us at:

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... and now, what we've all been waiting for ...

Fish Futures 22nd Annual Banquet and Auction

Thursday, May 6th, 2010

Canad Inns – Polo Park – 5:00 PM

"The Fish Futures Banquet Committee is proud to once again invite all of its guests to the 2010 Spring Banquet. Last year's 21st Banquet was a huge success and we would like to thank all of you that were able to attend. Your generous involvement has once again allowed Fish Futures Inc. to carry on valuable work towards conservation and enhancement of freshwater fisheries. We will have some extremely exciting trips and auction items up for grabs at this year's banquet, so stay tuned for more details in the next issue of *Fish News*. Get ready for some major fun!" - Jerry Kruczek, Chairman of Fish Futures Banquet Committee

"The Big Chase" wins 2010 Youth Angling Art Competition

Kennedy Ironstand's painting "The Big Chase" is the winner of the 2010 Youth Angling Art Competition. Kennedy is fourteen years old and he lives on the Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation at Shortdale. His painting will now adorn the front of 50,000 youth angling cards that will be handed out this year to anglers under sixteen years of age in Manitoba. Kennedy and his family, along with art teacher Kim Brannconnier, have been invited to the legislature to receive his prize of a new rod and reel. Congratulations Kennedy!

Important Dates for 2010

Fishing Season Opens: South - May 15th, Northwest and North Central - May 22nd, Northeast- open all year
Manitoba Recreational Fishing League - May 24th to July 4th (six weeks)

Manitoba Family Fishing Weekend - June 12th and 13th

Fish Winnipeg Media/Corporate Challenge - June 15th

Winnipeg Fish Festival - July 10th

2010 Manitoba Homecoming Tournament - Catfish Invitational - August 7th and 8th

Winnipeg Urban Fall Fishing Derby - September 11th