

Zebra Mussel Platform Instructions

The platform you have is a simple, inexpensive, and reliable way to check for signs of zebra mussels. Below are instructions for use:

- 1) Deploy the platform in late May, or whenever is convenient in the early summer.
- 2) The platform can be tied to a dock, boat lift, or other structure. Hanging in the water, about one foot above the lake bottom and away from the shoreline, is best.
- 3) Check the platform twice a month through the summer, or more often if you think of it.
- 4) Pull the sampler from the water and feel the smooth surfaces for small bumps.
 - a. Any zebra mussels attached to the platform will be very small.
 - b. Zebra mussels are recognized by their D-shaped shell. Adults have dark stripes, but these may be difficult to determine in juveniles.
 - c. If muck or other debris is collecting on the sampler, consider moving higher in the water column or to a different location. If a minor amount of algae or other material is collecting on the sampler that is okay.
 - d. Juvenile zebra mussels may be as small as 2 or 3 millimeters. Small objects that are obscure to identify can be left on the platform – check again in several weeks to determine if they are small zebra mussels that have grown larger.
- 5) If you suspect you have found a zebra mussel:
 - a. Take a photograph if possible.
 - b. Move the suspected mussel(s) into a clear jar with rubbing alcohol.
 - c. Contact regional AIS staff
 - i. DNR - Chris Jurek at 320-223-7847 or Christine.jurek@state.mn.us,
 - ii. Dan Cibulka at 763-220-3434 ext 103 or dcibulka@sherburneswcd.org
- 6) At the end of the boating season, your zebra mussel platform can be removed from the water, scrubbed clean, dried, and stored for use in the next year.

If you need any assistance with the platform contact Dan Cibulka, Sherburne SWCD.



Adult zebra mussels attached to a hard surface. Photo from www.InvasiveMusselCollaborative.org.



Small juvenile zebra mussel on fingertip. Photo from www.lakesylva.org

For more information on zebra mussels visit:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticanimals/zebramussel/index.html>