

The Zebra Mussel Situation

(represented by human-looking things
because the artist cannot draw animals)

By: Alyssa



There's a war happening in Minnesota's lakes and rivers right now.



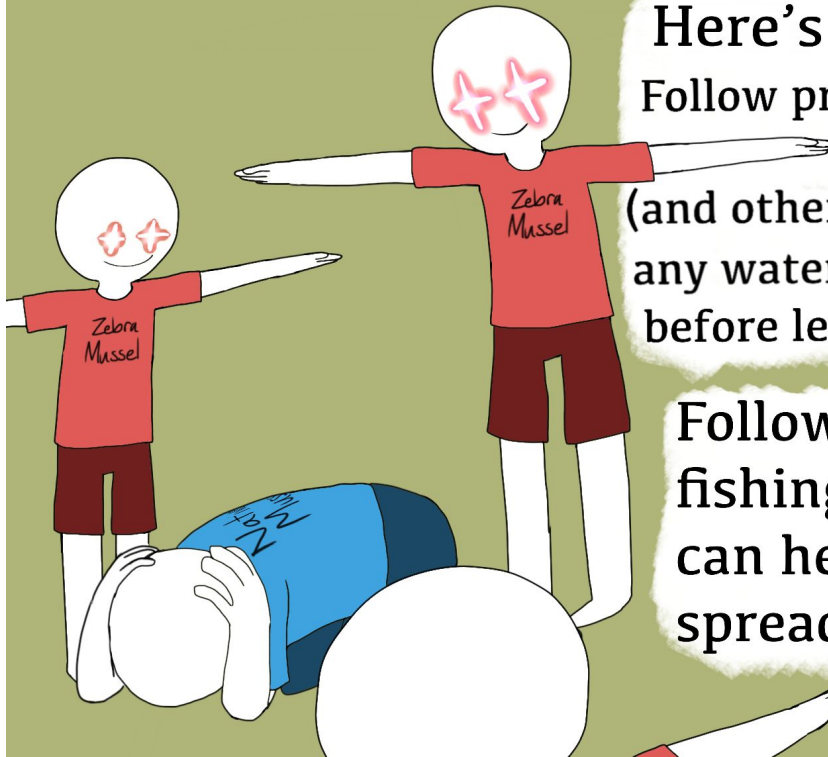
And the bad guys are winning.
Don't let Zebra Mussels get their way.

Here's the situation:

Zebra mussels have been invading Minnesota's lakes. Even though they are only in 3% of Minnesota's 11,000 lakes, they are still an invasive species. It's always better to rid of the problem when it's small before it gets worse!



Zebra mussels are causing all sorts of problems.
One is dominating native Minnesota mussels.



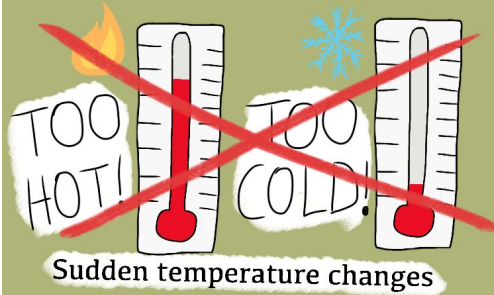
Here's how you can help:
Follow protocols such as cleaning
all visible zebra mussels
(and other invasive species!) from
any water-related equipment
before leaving any shore land.

Following Minnesota's
fishing/boating protocols
can help decrease the
spread of zebra mussels!

For those with pets, make sure you properly clean their waste! If you don't, the waste will get washed into the water from rain or snow, which will hurt the native mussels!



Native mussels are very important in ecosystems like lakes or rivers! They are very sensitive to changes in their environment though so that's why we need to be extra careful!



Here's a bunch of other ways zebra mussels are harmful in case you weren't convinced by the native mussels getting hurt:

- Encrust equipment, such as boat motors and hulls, which reduces performance and efficiency and is costly to clean and repair.
- Swimmers and pets can cut their feet on zebra mussels attached to rocks, docks, swim rafts and ladders.
- Create a costly problem for power plants, cities and residents when they clog water intakes.
- Filter tiny food particles out of the water, which can reduce available food for larval fish and other animals, and can increase aquatic plant growth as a result of increased water clarity.
- Attach to and kill native mussels.

They can cause social, economic, and ecological problems!



In conclusion? Take action now, and do what you can! Following protocols, spreading the word, etc!

S.O.S = Save Our Shells!



Pictures/Information Credits:



<https://savagefacts.com/facts-about-zebra-mussels/>



<http://mnzoo.org/education/schools-teachers/teachers-protect-mussels/mussels-2/>



<https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/zebra-mussel>

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

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/minnaqua/speciesprofile/freshwater_mussels.html

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html>

The artist's attempts at drawing the mussels...

