

This brief primer is intended to provide some basic information to members about the risk of introducing zebra mussels into Falcon Lake; steps we must take to mitigate the risk and fines associated with transporting/introducing an invasive species such as zebra mussels into our lake

More comprehensive information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/stopais/aisinmanitoba/zebra-mussels.html>

Sailors travelling to regattas or events on other lakes (zebra mussels have been introduced into Lake Winnipeg and Lake of the Woods) must familiarize themselves with MB's regulations and recommended decontamination protocols (note the website link above) and practice approved cleaning and decontamination prior to re-launching in Falcon after the boat and equipment has been in another lake that has been contaminated with zebra mussels.

Zebra mussels are designated as an aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Manitoba.

In Manitoba, it is illegal to knowingly or unknowingly:

- possess a member of an AIS in Manitoba
- bring a member of an AIS into Manitoba or cause it to be brought into Manitoba
- deposit or release a member of an AIS in Manitoba or cause it to be deposited or released in Manitoba
- transport a member of an AIS in Manitoba

Zebra mussels have been detected in: (plus many more)

- Lake Winnipeg in 2013
- the Manitoban portion of the Red River in 2015
- Lake of the Woods (U.S. portion) in 2019 (& possibly areas of the lake in closer proximity to MB according to Falcon Conservation officers)
- Lake Manitoba in 2021
- Clear Lake in 2024

If you are uncertain whether you have been in an aquatic invasive species invaded water body, you must decontaminate the watercraft and all water-related equipment **before** placing these items into a water body in Manitoba. Be sure to allow time for cleaning the boat and letting it dry 100%.

BEFORE ENTERING A WATER BODY, you need to...

- ensure your boat and equipment are free of AIS, aquatic plants (e.g., weeds and algae) and mud.
- drain any residual water from the boat on land **away from the water body**.

- ensure your boat and equipment that was last used in **another** water body than the one you are entering is **dried completely or decontaminated**.
- To decontaminate you can:
 - visit a provincial Watercraft Inspection Station. (very limited – currently only in Selkirk) There is no cost for this service. OR
 - follow the Approved Decontamination Methods of the Manitoba government’s Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation. When choosing this option, watercraft and water-related equipment must also be dried completely **before** they are placed into **another** water body.

Approved decontamination methods for watercraft and trailer using hot water

Treat the exterior of the watercraft or water-related equipment using hot water (minimum 60 °C / 140 °F).

Ensure:

- the water is discharged at a pressure between 40 to 60 psi
- the water is sprayed no more than 10 cm from the surface being treated (Figure 1).
- all surfaces that were in contact with surface water from the water body receive a minimum of 10 seconds of exposure to the hot water.
- Dry the watercraft completely *before* placing into *another* water body.
- Note: the time it takes for watercraft to dry completely increases dramatically in the spring and fall due to cooler temperatures and increased humidity. Use a towel to remove residual water, keep all compartments open and the watercraft uncovered to facilitate drying.

FINES FOR AIS OFFENCES ARE IN EFFECT YEAR-ROUND AND RANGE FROM \$174 TO \$2,542 (FOR INDIVIDUALS).