

July 24, 2015

Quagga Mussels found in Crooked Lake

Our Pickerel-Crooked Lakes Association has been informed by the Tip Of the Mitt Watershed Council that the Quagga Mussel has been found at several locations on Crooked Lake. The PCLA with the financial assistance of six local government entities commissioned the The Watershed Council to conduct a five year re-check of invasive aquatic plants on our two lakes, Round Lake and a small portion of the Crooked River; and while doing so they discovered the Quagga Mussel clinging to the same natural milfoil plants where the Zebra Mussel are found. The Watershed Council says that there are few Michigan Inland Lakes with the Quagga Mussel and that there is concern for how their presence will affect the water quality, the eco-systems and the watershed. You will find more detailed information on the Quagga Mussel for control, identification and history on our web site.

The PCLA Invasive Species Committee has met and is mobilizing a campaign to “educate and investigate” this “threat” to our Lakes. Our initial strategy will be to immediately “investigate” the Quagga threat and then “educate” our members, the general public, local government and neighboring Lake Associations and Communities on what can be done to control, minimize or eradicate the threat. Members of the Committee, our Lake Shore Zone Leaders and our boat Launch Monitors have begun the task of searching the Lakes for further signs of Quagga.

Early reports have found approximately one Quagga Mussel for every 200 Zebra Mussels; and that they have been found in locations along the flow of the current between the Little Traverse Boat Launch and the Crooked River lock.. So far we have not found any evidence in the Pickerel-Crooked Channel, nor near the mouth of the Channel on Pickerel Lake.

We urge every reader to look at the article from Kevin Cronk, Director of Monitoring and Reseach for Tip of the Mitt Watershed council for a thorough explanation of the Quagga theat, possible affects to the Lakes and what you as an individual can do to minimize the transfer of Quagga. This article is posted on our website.

The Quagga Mussel presents NO THREAT to your present use of the Lakes, other than that they do have sharp shells, like the Zebra, that can cut your “unprotected” skin – wear swim shoes in shallow water! An early piece of “good news” is that the Quagga Mussel when in its Larvae stage is a “preferred food source” for Lake Perch and Sunfish!

We will keep you informed via our Website – So check it often, and we will see you on the Lakes!

Dudley and Darlene Marvin, PCLA
231-439-0169