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How to use a Zebra/Quagga Mussel Sampler

To check for zebra and quagga mussels simply hang a sampler from the underside of your dock.

- Sampler should be checked weekly or semi-monthly.
- It should hang approximately one foot above the lake bottom or at least a two feet below the waters surface.
- Check by pulling out of the water and placing in a tub or tray.
- Disassemble and feel surface with fingertips for small bumps. When zebra mussels first attach they can be very small. Look for the D-shaped shell.
- If the sampler is covered in muck or algae, clean off after checking sampler. Otherwise return it to the water without cleaning. This will give any young zebra mussels that might be attached a chance to grow to a detectable size.
- Re-deploy. Some groups wish to track all monitoring efforts and dates samplers were checked on the lake, this can be very valuable information if an infestation occurs.

How to Report

If you find a suspected zebra mussel

- Take a photo
- Collect sample and place in a jar with rubbing alcohol for confirmation by an expert
- Note the location where you found it, take GPS coordinates if possible
- Contact a MN DNR AIS Specialist
- Contact AIS Consulting Services, LLC to assist with identification assistance, surveying needs or guidance on next steps (320-492-8582).



About the smallest size of a detectable zebra mussel (2 – 3 mm). Look for D-shape, lightly attached to plate