

Don't Let Your Lake Get These Fleas!

Spiny water fleas are tiny crustaceans $\frac{1}{8}$ - $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long with a long tail native to Europe and Asia. They were introduced into the Great Lakes by ballast water discharged from ocean going ships.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Prevention is key!

LEARN to recognize spiny water fleas on fishing gear

CLEAN gelatinous material from anchor ropes and fishing lines, especially where they meet a swivel, lure or downrigger ball connection (plucking the line like a guitar string helps)

DRAIN water before transporting boats, live wells and bait containers

REPORT new infestations

Photo: Darren Lilja

IMPACTS OF SPINY WATER FLEAS

Spiny water fleas eat small animals called zooplankton that are important food for larval and juvenile fishes. Fish do not feed on spiny water fleas because their sharp spine tends to puncture through the stomach...ouch!

For anglers, these invaders can clog the eyelets of rods, damage a reel's drag system and prevent fish from being landed.

Boaters and anglers can inadvertently spread egg carrying females to new waters because spiny water fleas easily attach to fishing gear. Adults will die out of water, but their eggs remain viable due to resistance to drought, heating and freezing.

Infestations in Cook County

Caribou Lake (BWCA), Devilfish Lake, Devil Track Lake, Flour Lake, Greenwood Lake, Gunflint Lake, Lake Superior, Little John Lake, McFarland Lake, North Fowl Lake, Pine Lake, Saganaga Lake, South Fowl Lake and Trout Lake.

FREE

SELF-SERVE

BOATWASH

North Shore Car Wash
400 West Highway 61

Offering FREE self-serve boat wash abilities with 110°F water. Stop into NAPA during business hours to receive \$5.00 towards washing your watercraft.

HOURS:

North Shore Car Wash
400 West Highway 61

7 days a week
8 am – 7 pm

NAPA Auto Parts
404 West Highway 61

Monday – Friday
7:30 am – 5:30 pm
Saturday
8 am – 3 pm

MORE INFO:

Cook County
Aquatic Invasive Species
Coordinator,
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Spread the word, not the species!