

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program Report through November 30, 2011

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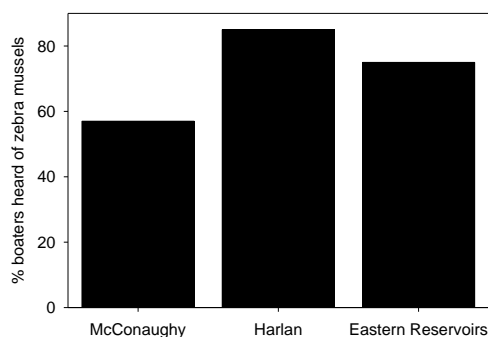
Zebra/Quagga Mussel Monitoring (veliger sampling)



In May 2011 technicians hired by the UNL Invasive Species Project (NE Coop Fish & Wildlife Research Unit) began sampling Zorinsky Lake each week for veligers. Due to the high risk of zebra mussel exposure to nearby lakes, samples were also collected from Papio Lakes and Salt Valley lakes every other week. NGPC district staff also collected samples at various reservoirs across the state, as time allowed. From May-August, 2011, nearly 200 samples were collected from over 40 different reservoirs (by NGPC and UNL staff). See below for a map of sampled locations (includes those sampled by NGPC, UNL, NPPD, BOR) or [click here to see map online](#). All samples have been analyzed for veligers by the Invasive Species Project staff or the Aquatic Invasive Species Lab in Montana using cross-polarized light microscopy. All samples were negative for zebra/quagga mussel veligers.

Boater Surveys, Outreach, and Watercraft Inspections

In May 2011 five technicians were hired by UNL Invasive Species Project (NE Coop Fish & Wildlife Research Unit) with funding provided by a 1-year grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust. An additional technician was hired in May with funding provided by a grant from the 100th Meridian to NGPC. Three outreach technicians were located at Lake McConaughy, one at Harlan Reservoir, and two were 'roving' Eastern Nebraska to visit multiple lakes each week. Staff conducted boater surveys designed to gauge public knowledge of invasive species, to track where boaters are coming from (and going to), and to educate boaters on aquatic invasive species prevention. As of August 31 (end of season),



staff surveyed over 3,500 boaters from 18 different locations around the state.

While data is still being processed, current survey results suggest that in the west (Lake McConaughy), nearly 60% of those surveyed had heard of zebra mussels. This is similar to results of the surveys conducted in 2010 by NGPC Staff, and highlights the need for additional education and outreach. In Central Nebraska (Harlan

In November 2011, a mail and online survey was released by NGPC and the Nebraska Invasive Species Project. The survey was aimed at obtaining information concerning Nebraskan's attitudes toward aquatic invasive species, our methods managing the species and our ability to provide education to the public. Of particular interest are two questions related to the current legislation (LB 392). So far, over 500 surveys have been returned, and 86% would be likely to support legislation that allows for the development of rules and regulations pertaining to aquatic invasive species. In addition, 71% would *also* support an increase in boater registration fees; *if* it went towards an aquatic invasive species prevention program. The online survey can be completed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NEBoaterSurvey>

Legislation Update

LB 391 (to create the Nebraska Invasive Species Advisory Council) was voted unanimously out of committee, but did not get picked up by the Speaker to be heard on the floor. The bill now is out of committee and was reported to the general file in March. More information can be found here: http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=12091

LB 392 (would allow NGPC to develop rules and regulations pertaining to aquatic invasive species) is still in the Natural Resource Committee. More information about this bill can be found here: http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=12586

There is an interim study (LR312) being conducted to examine the extent of LB 392: http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=14884

Both bills were introduced by Senator Schilz (of Ogallala) in January 2011 <http://news.legislature.ne.gov/dist47/>

Members of the Natural Resource Committee can be found here: <http://news.legislature.ne.gov/nat/>

I've also attached informational sheets for each bill.

Map of locations sampled for veligers (includes those sampled by NGPC, UNL, NPPD, BOR)
[Click here to see online](#)



Table 1: Locations of Boater Surveys, Outreach, and Watercraft Inspections

Branched Oak	Missouri River (Desoto Bend)
Burchard	Pawnee
Calamus	Sherman
Conestoga	Stage Coach
Cunningham	Wagon Train
Harlan	Walnut Creek
Holmes	Wehrspann
Lewis and Clark Reservoir	Wildwood
McConaughy	Youngman