



Cocolalla Lake Association
Box 133
Cocolalla, ID 83813
*Protecting Cocolalla Lake
Since 1984*



Idaho Road-Side Inspections For Zebra Mussels

Total Inspections 2012

42,142

**Total Mussel Fouled
Vessels**

57

**Additional
Interceptions of Fouled
Boats**

22

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The CLA board presented outgoing President Chuck Gladish with a plaque for his years of dedicated leadership.

Chuck will remain a member of the board. Pictured from Left to Right are newly elected President Fred Vincent and Vice President Larry Erickson

MILFOIL TREATMENT

Aquatic Herbicide Applications for the control of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) were carried out on August 7th, 2012 by Clean Lakes Inc.

Although irrigation restrictions have been longer than anticipated, we believe this was the best treatment this year given the amount of infestation.



Unseasonably dry, calm weather appears to have been a factor in this slow degradation.

Initial surveys indicate a good result and the slower breakdown will insure longer contact with the milfoil.

EASTSIDE SHORELINE CLEAN UP

Cocolalla Lake Residents and members of the CLA spent an afternoon cleaning up the shoreline along the Burlington Northern Railway Tracks. People ignoring the “No Trespassing” signs continue to litter and burn fires with the remnants making their way into our lake.

Many Thanks to Cary Poston, Norm Anderson and Fred Vincent, our dedicated members for their continued stewardship and IF&G for hauling the garbage away.



REPRESENTATIVE ERIC ANDERSON VISITS COCOLALLA



It’s always a pleasure to have Eric spend some time with us. Being a devote “safekeeper of the environment”, Eric has been a great supporter of CLA’s efforts to protect and improve the condition of Lake Cocolalla.

In 2008 Eric was awarded the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's "Director's Cup Award" for his successful efforts to protect the state's waterways from invasive Eurasian milfoil, now he is tackling the threat of the Zebra Mussel and has been elected to co-chairman of the invasive species working group of the [Pacific North West Economic Region](#) (PNWER). Here he has taken another step, helping establish a regional invasive species council at PNWER. "By forming a regional invasive species

council, policymakers can share limited resources and better prevent invasive species from moving in to the region," said Anderson. The invasive species working group, meets every year at the broader PNWER annual summit. This event brings together leaders from 10 jurisdictions (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Northwest Territories and Yukon) to address the pressing threats to this "economic region."

In our local community Eric was instrumental in working with Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game and the Idaho Department of Agriculture in securing funds to develop our Lake Host Site. This has been an important improvement providing another opportunity to ensure vessels entering our lake are weed and pest free. The host presence has also aided in overseeing camp activities and deterring vandalism and theft in the North End.

FISHING REPORT (by Cary Poston)

Spring of 2012 was again a bit slow for Cocolalla Lake trout fishing. A rainy May and June left the lake a bit out of shape for good trout fishing. As the weather warmed in late June, and the lake level settled, anglers switched to bass, perch and catfish. Bass fishermen were not disappointed. Perch were abundant and large, most in the 7" to 9" range and available in all favorite fishing spots on the lake. Simple tube jigs without any added bait seem to be the preferred attractant. Catfish in large numbers were being caught in all areas at all times of the day. They were even biting on unlikely baits such as tube jigs. I have very little experience with catfish, and it seemed that every time my grandchildren headed out in the paddleboat for a little perch/sunfish fishing, they came back with one catfish each still firmly attached to their hooks. Grandpa was enlisted to remove the fish from the hook, send the grandkids back out, and deal with the catfish. I did learn how to acceptably filet a catfish this summer, so the whole family enjoyed some cornmeal-coated pan-fried catfish. Crappie catches were less than impressive this season. I did manage a couple of good days in July, with catches of 6 or 8 large crappie. Toward August the crappie hid out. The fishermen I talked to showed catches of only 1 or 2 crappie per outing.

The lake level has dropped during a warm dry summer to the lowest level I've observed in the sixteen years I've lived here. I was a bit concerned about the level's effect on the fall trout fishing, but late September saw the lake turn over (mix from the surface to the bottom), bringing the cool water from the bottom to the surface all to the liking of trout. October 1st saw the trout fishing take off. I saw one bucket with a 22" rainbow, 2 westslope cutthroat in the 17" range, and 1 13" rainbow. Since then I've experienced a catch rate of about 1 fish every 20 minutes. October 3rd, the same angler came in with one rainbow over 20" and 1 brown at 17". Most fish were rainbows in the 11" to 13" range (great eating size). Probably left from last year's plant. As always, the best bait for trout is whatever you consider to be your favorite. Notable again this year is the lack of fishing pressure.

The low lake level has impacted the boat launch area at the sportsman access. Many boaters were having great difficulty getting their boats into the water, and all were challenged during the retrieval process. Idaho Dept of Fish and Game dredged the boat ramp area the last week in September, easing the launch/retrieve process, but I'm guessing some boaters are still a bit shy about using the ramp.



Westmond Creek Report by Janet Conlin:

Herron of IDEQ and I did an intensive Westmond sampling for e coli. This was conducted weekly for 5 weeks, following DEQ protocol. The readings were to get a geometric mean of the situation. While I don't have the final figures, it looks as if there is a persistent e coli problem. We are waiting to see what DEQ decides the next move should be. I am also continuing the Water Stewards testing and the next sample will be October 3rd. So we'll get another reading then. There is no need to test the lake at this point because the dilution factor of the creek would be quite quick.

Westmond will be a complicated problem to address as there could be many contributors to the e coli situation.. septic systems, wildlife, waterfowl, and domestic and agricultural animals. It will take a concerted effort to not only pinpoint the problem, but perhaps to fix it. Other northern Idaho locations that have had problems turn out to have many species contributing to the final e coli problem.



ZEBRA MUSSELS

As young larvae, they move freely. In their adult days, they settle down and latch on to surfaces with a suction so tight they sometimes need to be jackhammered off. Hundreds of trillions of them, if not a quadrillion, blanket Lake Michigan alone.

The mussels consume nearly everything in their path, including hazardous chemicals and minerals, which they deposit as highly toxic sediments on lake floors. Included in their diet is plankton, a food source that fish depend upon for survival. As plankton populations have dwindled in the lakes, toxic algae blooms have risen, causing further environmental damage.

When the mussels aren't destroying the underwater food chain, they can clog the pipes and machinery of power plants and water delivery systems; in rare cases over the years, they've even forced shutdowns. As recently as 2007, a nuclear plant along Lake Ontario in upstate New York faced three shutdowns

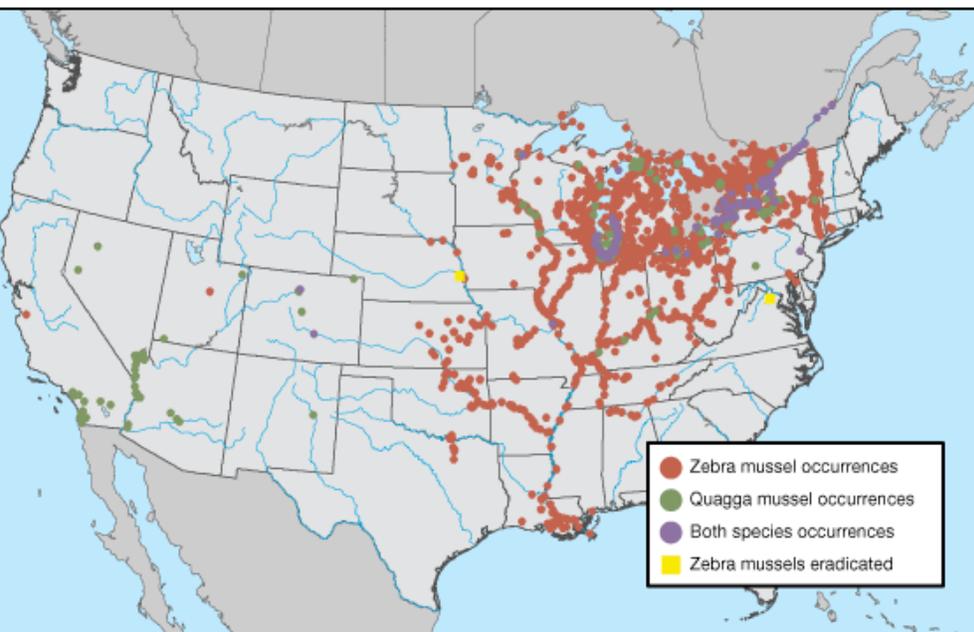
in two months, its water intake system clogged with algae blooms caused by the mussel spread. The stoppage cost up to \$2 million in lost revenue per day.

Efforts to eradicate the mussels with chemical treatment have worked only on small, confined bodies of water, and only in rare cases. Once they get into larger, open bodies of water, eliminating the mussels is considered nearly impossible, though researchers are still looking for solutions.

For More Information on Zebra and Quagga Mussels

River Basin Teams

100th Meridian Initiative partners are organized into river basin teams, basic partnership units for collaborative responses to invasive mussels in western North America. Team communications and monitoring information will be shared through two dedicated websites, www.musselmonitoring.com and www.100thmeridian.org. These websites and the Teams will provide the primary network to implement the Early Detection and Monitoring Plan.



Shopping Cart Covered in Zebra Mussels found near dumpster in Duluth, Minnesota. Man not knowing legal ramifications was fined \$500.00 when he was caught trying to transport his unique find back home to North Dakota.

COCOLALLA LOOP ROAD WASH-OUT



Several loads were hauled out.

Janet Conlin and Fred Vincent worked with Dave Ross of Idaho Fish & Game (IFG) to facilitate agency support in the removal of a massive amount of debris discovered after the wash out. Many thanks to our CLA Members, Norm Anderson, Chuck Gladish, Jeremy Conlin, Don Davis, Fred Vincent and Cary Poston who aided in the clean up. IFG will provide transportation to have it hauled away. It is clear that the creek bed had been used as a dumping ground for years.



Tom Herron of IDEQ said the down - stream red in the washout stream was due to "Filamentous blue green algae with a surface film that could be the result of affiliated bacteria or could be "phenois producing the odor." This is a natural process and it will disappear on its own.



A Concrete Foundation ?? Any ideas what this may have been?



Anyone recognize this?

Cary Poston is convinced this is the remains of a car, complete with tires and license plate.

100th Meridian Conference Report by: Janet Conlin

100th Meridian Conference was held in Spokane October 3-4. Several things struck me about the conference. The first was, **how lucky we are to live in Idaho!** Our department of Ag is light years ahead of all the other states that were represented (Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Montana and Canadian provinces). Tom Woolf (Aquatic Plant Program Manager) was the "go to guy" on helping these other states and we are the leader in inspecting boats (most states really aren't doing it) and Amy Ferriter (Invasive Species Council Coordinator) presented very clear information about boat inspection results. A country weed superintendent from Lemhi County gave a good presentation on regulations. And Tom Woolf also presented great information on the fight against all invasives.

Cary Poston and our Lake Association were thanked by the group from Diamond Lake as we were the most help that they received!

And Federal control seems to be an oxymoron. There was a call-in from Mr. Britton with USFWS about Lake Meade and their use of the 1.2 million dollars that congress had allocated specifically for boat washing and inspection leaving Lake Meade. Money has been spent, but the washing stations did not seem to be where the initial money was spent and are just now getting somewhat operational!!! As only 4 boats from the Eastern US (including the Midwest) were found coming here with mussels, but over 160 from Lake Meade alone, they sure need to start getting aggressive about boats leaving Lake Meade!

And on the bad news side, it was shared by the Montana lab people that the mussels seem to be able to live in lower concentrations of calcium than was previously thought. Whether they can reproduce at these levels isn't known yet.. so **KEEP WASHING** and inspecting!

Calendar**Thursday, October 25th**

CLA Final Board Meeting for 2012
7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 28th, 2013

CLA Board Meeting
7:00 p.m.

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