



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

SPRING - SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2014

Invasive mussels knocking on Idaho's door, official says...



Meet Isabel

Isabel (pictured with Fred Vincent) joined us in May, she is an employee of IDA and will be assisting us 2-3 days a week at our boat inspection. Unfortunately that leaves 4-5 days unattended. We are hopeful Idaho Fish and Game will find a camp host to fill this very important position. Potential Candidates should contact Dave Ross (208) 660-7291.



Having the mussels in Lake Powell is like having a deadly contagious disease at a major national airport with folks coming and going in all directions, including Idaho, Mabey (a forest fisheries biologist) said. The rate of spread of the mussels could be very rapid now that Lake Powell is infected.

If quagga or zebra mussels take hold in Idaho, the state's lake fisheries will be forever changed and the irrigation and hydropower industry could face millions of dollars in added expenses. Undoubtedly these expenses will be passed on to the consumer, Mabey said.

Quagga mussels are prolific breeders and attach themselves to hard and soft surfaces. Once in a lake, they filter plankton from the water, robbing fish of food.

"If we get these mussels in our lakes, it is going to turn the ecology upside down," Mabey said. "Our fish populations would crash. It is simple biology — a lake only supports so much biomass. You can have plankton and fish or you can have plankton and mussels." More on Mussels page 2

Membership Drive - We Need Your Help!

Our membership has dropped below 100... in order to keep our yearly dues at \$25.00 we need to see this number grow. This is important not only for financial reasons as our operating expenses have increased, but, it is important in how we are perceived and respected amongst the various government agencies and State Representatives that have supported our efforts in our battle against invasive species. Please encourage your friends, neighbors and outdoor enthusiasts to join the Cocolalla Lake Association.

Please contact Sonia Gladish regarding Membership Applications: (208) 263-6515

Invasive Mussels Continued

“We need everybody to take part in prevention,” he said. “We can’t rely on just inspection stations. We need to have a change in mentality of all users. Just like anglers have adopted catch-and-release regulation, we need boaters and all water users to adopt clean, drain and dry after each excursion.”

“We need a paradigm shift,” he said. “The state agency can only do so much. People have to realize they have a responsibility when they go boating to make sure they aren’t moving things around. It is essential.”

June 26th, 2014

[Heller Introduces Legislation Identifying Quagga Mussels as Invasive Species](#)

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) has introduced the Protecting Lakes against Quaggas (PLAQ) Act, which would add quagga mussels to the national list of invasive species covered under the Lacey Act. While Administrative action to list quagga mussels as an invasive species could take many years, this bill would speed up the process significantly and allow for prevention and control measures to commence.

For the Full Report go to:

[http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?
ID=266c9189-7cef-4bdd-85c6-821051f8d099](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=266c9189-7cef-4bdd-85c6-821051f8d099)

Meet your Board Members

From Left: Sonia Gladish - Secretary, Larry Ericson - Vice President, Fred Vincent - President Janet Conlin, Dave Crow, Cinda Bennet - Treasurer, Vern Newby, Chuck Gladish, Missing Cary Poston.

Thank-you for your tireless effort in the preservation and protection of Lake Cocolalla.

I would encourage all residents and stake holders to get involved. It is in your best interest and that of future generations.





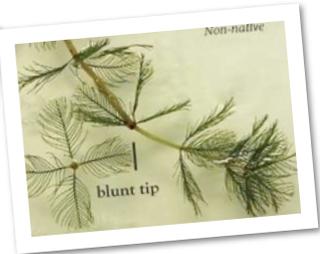
Milfoil



Curlyleaf



Curlyleaf



Milfoil

Milfoil and Curlyleaf

by: Tom Woolf of Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Treatment was conducted on June 10th for both Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed.

Water use restrictions were lifted on June 19th.

Initial survey results indicate that the treatment worked well. Follow up survey in a month or so will determine the true efficacy of the treatment.

ISDA staff will be on Cocolalla in early July to survey and remove milfoil lake-wide.

A hybrid milfoil has been found in Hayden Lake. None has been found so far in Cocolalla. This is a cross between native milfoil and Eurasian Water Milfoil. At present, there is no treatment for controlling this hybrid that has worked. It is important to keep this out of Cocolalla. Hopefully a control herbicide will be developed.



Asian Clams in Lake Pend Oreille

Their high rates of filtration, metabolism, reproduction, tolerance to wide ranges of habitats, and juvenile dispersal allows Asian clams to aggressively expand ranges and to rapidly re-invade areas; limiting management, reducing restoration efforts and impacting native benthic communities. Asian clam are capable of both filter feeding (feeding from the water) and pedal feeding (feeding directly from the sediment). One reason for why Asian clam is successful in so many different environments is that it

can effectively filter phytoplankton and bacteria out of the water column and feed from the sediments when food from the water column becomes scarce. In Lake Tahoe they grow to be as large as 28 millimeters, but in other warmer systems can be as large as 55 mm. They are found in Lake Tahoe at water depths of 5 to 250 feet (2 to 80 meters), and within the sediments buried in up to 7 inches below the surface.

ISDA is working closely with experts from Lake Tahoe to learn control methods of this new threat to our lakes. Lake Tahoe has had success with bottom barriers, however Lake Pend Oreille's rocky shoreline has brought additional challenges.



Lake Tahoe Clam Bed

Are We At Risk?

What is Being Transported on Hwy 95 and BNSF?

The CLA has hosted 2 meetings involving Bonner County Emergency Management personnel, Idaho Department of Transportation, Bonner County Commissioner, Glen Bailey and representatives from Bonner County Sheriff and Fire Departments. The goal of each meeting was to primarily better identify what is being transported by our lake by rail or road and how a spill involving toxic materials would be handled (such as the truck spill this past February involving Ammonium Nitrate that threatened Cocolalla Creek), along with trying to raise our members knowledge and communications to local public officials about the concerns a spill would have on our precious lake. Currently, there is efforts by the State of Idaho to raise speed limits on many highways, including Highway 95. Obviously, this could dramatically raise the chance of future spills around our lake and watershed. There is also growing concerns about the increasing amount of oil being transported on the tracks along the eastside of our lake and the volatility of this material. In preparing this newsletter we came upon a website. **This is a must read!**

<http://wildidahorisingtide.org/2014/06/21/wirt-newsletter-retreating-highway-95-megaloads-montana-manufacturers-idaho-resistance-prevails/>

“Meanwhile, other railway infrastructure has been crumbling for decades, such as the bridge buttressing south bound tracks over Sportsman Access Road connecting Highway 95 to Westmond, Idaho, next to Cocolalla Lake, where double-decker container shipments, coal and oil tankers, and looming tar sands equipment could overwhelm already weight-stressed rail lines [14, 15]. Can regional rail system structures withstand the exorbitant weights and widths of megaloads or their addition to the currently strained rail traffic capacity imposed by dangerous oil and coal cars?”

At our board meeting on March 27th, Marc Kalbaugh Waste and Remediation Manager at IDEQ made a very comprehensive presentation on the hazardous waste spill which occurred on Idaho State Highway 95 on February 2, 2014. The spill involved a tanker truck carrying liquid Ammonium Nitrate (AN). This is a commonly used compound in explosives and was destined for mining operation in Canada. The spill occurred approximately 1.8 miles south of Cocolalla Creek and Lake Cocolalla. The truck overturned in the ditch on the east side of the highway and sheared a valve and ruptured the tank. 1066 (or 10,176 lbs.) gallons of AN spilled into the ditch. The driver died in the accident. Response from the regional response team was prompt and the truck was removed at 10:45 PM that night. 60,000 gallons of contaminated water was removed. Bob Howard contacted President Fred Vincent so that the CLA could take necessary measures and IDT responded within about one hour of the accident. This material can be extremely volatile under the right conditions besides being seriously harmful to the environment. Fred asked if the first responders had adequate knowledge to control the spill and minimize the damage it may cause. Marc informed us that there is an emergency response guide book which clearly covers necessary action and those procedures were followed. AN can be extremely dangerous and response teams need to be very cautious when approaching an accident of this type. A fire could result in a major explosion. Communication between the various agencies involved, such as ITD, DEQ, Fire Dept., Sheriffs' Dept., and Idaho State Patrol is essential. Berms were installed in the ditch to prevent the movement of the material into Cocolalla Creek. By February 14, there was no nitrate present in the soil samples and the level of ammonia was below background levels.

Backfill and berm removal was completed by February 28. Six to ten trucks loaded with this material travel north on State Highway 95 every day enroute to the mining operations in Canada. Ammonium Nitrate is a very strong oxidizer and powerful explosive under certain conditions.

The Cocolalla Lake Association wishes to express our thanks to all of the responders to this accident. We were very lucky and owe a debt of appreciation to those who prevented a major catastrophe from occurring in our neighborhood.

Regulations Regarding Shoreline Development or Stabilization Projects (Bulkheads)

The Department of Lands Pend Oreille Supervisory Area processes encroachment permit applications for Pend Oreille Lake, Pend Oreille River, the Clark Fork River up to the railroad trestle at Clark Fork, and Cocolalla Lake.

Encroachments in aid of navigation (i.e. navigational encroachments) include docks, piers, jet ski and boat lifts, buoys, pilings and other facilities used to support water craft and moorage on, in, or above the beds or waters of a navigable lake.

The department recognizes landowners' desires and needs to protect property from erosion and we support efforts to achieve that goal. The cumulative effects of lake and river shoreline riprap projects negatively affect hydrologic functions and are also detrimental to fish and wildlife habitat and may have profound effects on wave generated erosion both up and downstream of the armored bank. We believe that it is important that projects be designed to avoid uniformity of habitat and to minimize other impacts to the environment.

Encroachment standards from the Navigable Waters Program Procedures Manual state that riprap material shall be placed along the present contour of the shoreline and no riprap material shall be placed in excess of that necessary to stop erosion. Riprap will consist of rock that is appropriately sized to resist movement from anticipated wave heights or tractive forces of the water flow and shall be sound, dense, durable and angular rock resistant to weathering and free of fines. The riprap shall overlie a distinct filter layer which consists of sand, gravel or nonwoven geotextile fabric and shall be keyed into the bed below the ordinary or artificial high water mark, as applicable.

The Department also typically requires a vegetative component to all shoreline stabilization projects. If a landowner wishes to install riprap with different standards, they must submit with their application a design that is signed and stamped for construction purposes by a professional engineer registered in the state of Idaho. Riprap shall be placed on a slope no steeper than 1.5H: 1V to aid in wave energy dissipation. Where possible, cutbanks shall be sloped landward and rip rap placed on the slope to minimize encroachment on the lake or riverbed.

Seawalls, bulkheads and other vertical walls are no longer permitted waterward of the ordinary high water mark (summer pool for Lake Cocolalla) or artificial high water mark (summer pool for Pend Oreille Lake and River). Maintenance or repair of previously permitted existing seawalls, bulkheads or other vertical walls, shall be stipulated to require riprap material be placed at the toe along the entire wall face to provide for aquatic life, dissipate wave energy and protect wall integrity.

Prior to any shoreline development or stabilization projects, land owners should also contact the Bonner County Planning Department to determine any and all Bonner County permitting requirements. For more information please contact Michele Andersen, Pend Oreille Supervisory Area Navigable Waters Resource Specialist at 263.5104 or mandersen@idl.idaho.gov .

Fishing Report

by: Cary Poston

Reports and rumors indicate the ice fishing season was successful last fall & winter. The disappearing ice exposed navigable areas for some good trout fishing. Those fishermen I talked to were kinda closed-mouthed about numbers and size, but none were disappointed.

It's late June now and the focus, as always, shifts to perch, crappie, & bass. Perch are again numerous but mixed in sizes. Just as many small fish as large ones. Crappie are still hiding, but I know they'll turn up along the railroad tracks toward the north end of the lake any day now. Best bait is whatever you chose as your favorite. Me, I prefer a bare 1 inch tube jig yellow and white or chartreuse and orange. Lotsa bass fishermen around the docks. The fishermen I've observed are catching and releasing. The bass are still nesting so are quite aggressive.

No fish plantings reported by Idaho Fish and Game Dept. Cocolalla Lake seems to usually get a planting of several thousand fingerling trout each June. Keep watching the fish stocking reports. I'm sure we're due.

They Say Summer will be arriving soon~

Lets all practice responsible boating to ensure we have a safe season.

It shall be unlawful to operate, or to allow someone to operate a motor-driven watercraft when the operator is between the ages of ten (10) to fourteen (14) without adult SUPERVISION unless the vessel is powered by a motor rated at ten (10) horsepower or less.

Within one hundred (100') feet of any other vessel, the speed shall be reasonable and prudent, but not in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour.

Within 200' from any shoreline, dock, pier, other structure or any person in the water shall be **no wake**. Speed not to exceed (5) miles per hour.

Be Vigilant - Cocolalla is popular amongst fishermen, kayakers, swimmers, whom are not always prominent when you are dealing with glare from the sun, water and traveling at higher speeds. Follow speed limits especially closer to shore lines. We had one of our board members swamped by an irresponsible driver of a PWC last year.

Noise-All vessel engines must have an effective, permanently installed muffling system that cannot be bypassed. It is unlawful to exceed 75 dB(A) as measured from shore.

If you have a rental property please ensure your renters have a copy of the Idaho Handbook.

Any boat motorized or non that launch on an Idaho waterway is required to purchase and display an Idaho Invasive Species Sticker. Visit www.parksandrecreation.idaho.gov for more information.

