

Zebra Mussels Confirmed in Hagerman Lake in Iron County

Bob Evans – Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, Ottawa National Forest – Aug. 4, 2009

Bob Evans, a wildlife biologist with the Ottawa National Forest, has confirmed that zebra mussels have been spread to Hagerman Lake in west Iron County. They are in the early stages of infestation. He states: "This is very bad news. As you may know, Chicagon Lake in Iron County also has zebra mussels. The larval form of these mussels can easily be transported from lake to lake via bilge water, livewell water, and even water trapped inside boat motors, and they are not visible to the human eye. So, it is even more critical now to make sure that boaters are not only visually inspecting their boats and trailers for invasives (like adult mussels), but also emptying all sources of lake water from the boat upon exiting the lake they have been on, at the boat landing. Even with this precaution, it is also recommended that boats also then be dried in the sun for several days, and/or washed with a disinfectant solution, before using the boat in another lake. I realize that these types of precautions will not be popular with some boaters, but with two popular lakes in our area now infested with zebra mussels, the risk of spread to other area lakes is quite high unless these types of measures become widely adopted.