



Expansion of Zebra Mussels into the Nelson River

In August 2019, Zebra Mussel veligers were detected for the first time in Playgreen Lake and in the Nelson River, downstream of the Limestone Generating Station. In addition, a single adult Zebra Mussel was found in early September 2019, between Sea Falls and Sugar Falls on the Nelson River. An updated map, showing Manitoba water bodies that have been invaded by Zebra Mussels, can be found by clicking [here](#).

Since Zebra Mussels were first discovered in the south basin of Lake Winnipeg in 2013, it was expected they would move down the Nelson River naturally, following the flow of the river. As such, the Nelson River Control Zone was created and proclaimed in 2015, in the [Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation](#) under [The Water Protection Act](#). Its purpose was to control the spread of Zebra Mussels and Spiny Waterflea.

The Nelson River [Control Zone](#) covers the entire length of the Nelson River, from Lake Winnipeg to its entry into Hudson Bay, as well as all lakes, rivers, channels and other water bodies through which the Nelson River passes. This includes:

- Kiskitto Lake
- Kiskittogisu Lake
- Scatch Lake
- Goose Hunting Lake
- Cauchon Lake
- Prud'homme Lake
- Archibald Lake
- Bruneau Lake
- Bulger Lake
- Walker Lake
- Drunken Lake
- Hill Lake

It also includes the portion of each tributary that flows into any of these water bodies, from the mouth, upstream to the first impassible barrier.

In addition to the general requirements of the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation (i.e., Clean, Drain, Dry), there are extra requirements when exiting a control zone, including:

- all bait used on a control zone water body must be disposed of before leaving the shore. For more information, click [here](#).
- watercraft (e.g., canoes and fishing boats) and water-related equipment (e.g., ropes, anchors, waders and docks) must be decontaminated **before** they are placed into **another** water body.

As a reminder, set fines for [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) offences](#) are in effect year-round. The [Open-water Season](#) and [Winter \(Ice-covered\) Season](#) checklists are helpful resources that outline the legal requirements for surface water users, when entering and exiting non-control zone and control zone water bodies.

You can find more information on AIS, including other control zones, legislation and regulations, and how to report an AIS sighting, at [Manitoba.ca/StopAIS](#).

Links:

Map:

https://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/ais/invaded_water_zebra.pdf

Bait:

<https://www.manitoba.ca/stopais/resource/index.html>

Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation

https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/current/_pdf-regs.php?reg=173/2015

The Water Protection Act

http://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/_pdf.php?cap=W65

Control Zones:

<https://www.manitoba.ca/stopais/spread/controlzone.html>

AIS offences

<https://www.manitoba.ca/stopais/legislation.html>

open-water season checklist:

https://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/ais/ais_summer_checklist.pdf

closed water (winter) season checklist:

http://www.manitoba.ca/sd/pubs/invasive-species/ais_winter_checklist.pdf

Manitoba.ca/StopAIS:

<https://www.manitoba.ca/stopais/index.html>