

MUSSEL MORSELS

Volume 1 Issue 9 , July 19, 1991

BONUS ISSUE

The Mussel Morsels mailing list is growing rapidly. As a means of getting information to you faster and to cut down on the number of mailings, we will be including additional information as it becomes available. This issue includes the following:

ZEBRA MUSSEL DISTRIBUTION MAP

A distribution map showing the chronological spread of zebra mussels up to the end of 1990. This map will be produced annually by the Zebra Mussel Coordination Office and made available to you for distribution. We would appreciate hearing about any changes or errors in the map. Send your comments and any information on new sightings to Sylvia Waters at 416-832-7275.

ZEBRA MUSSEL BOATER'S GUIDE

The Zebra Mussel Boater's Guide is a MNR fact sheet. A bulk mailing was sent separately to our District Offices. The material in the fact sheet will soon be made into a pamphlet and widely distributed. If you would like copies of the pamphlet contact Kari Smith at:

(416) 832-7273. In the meantime, feel free to copy the *fact sheet*. Note that the reference to chlorine for killing settled zebra mussels has now been removed. Evidence indicates that this practice is not effective and may have potential harmful environmental impacts.

DON'T PICK UP HITCHHIKERS! STOP THE ZEBRA MUSSEL:

A pamphlet and poster prepared by the New York Sea Grant Extension Program is enclosed. It is a general guide for boaters. Additional copies can be obtained by contacting the address shown on the pamphlet.

EXOTICS: DON'T LET THEM RIDE WITH YOU!:

A pamphlet prepared by the Minnesota Sea Grant is enclosed. It is also a general guide for boaters. Additional copies can be obtained by contacting the address shown on the pamphlet.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT APPROVES ZEBRA MUSSEL PROGRAM

On June 25, final approval was given to the Ontario

Government zebra mussel program. It allocated \$2.5 million dollars to be spent on communications, invasion monitoring and research. Details of the program will be printed in a future issue.

NEW SIGHTINGS

Zebra Mussels Hit Little Current!

"Although we all knew it was simply a matter of time before the little nasties made it our way, it still came as a shock when John Barney phoned in May 1991 to report he had found a zebra mussel in the harbour at Little Current while scuba diving. Though he searched the area thoroughly, all he could find was the single adult mussel which likely detached from a boat or ship travelling through the area.

News of the finding has spread quickly and communication efforts have been stepped-up to try and prevent their spread in the area. Sampling is underway to detect and monitor the extent of their colonization.

To date, though our office has been swamped with calls of zebra mussels turning out to be everything from snails to algae, there have been no other confirmed sightings of

zebra mussels in the area." Contact: Chris Prydie, Assistant District Biologist, Espanola District, (705) 869-1330.

ZEBRA MUSSELS PUT IN RESERVOIR

(from *the Globe and Mail*, June 25, 1991)

"The dumping of a family aquarium containing a sick turtle, several stones and pieces of driftwood may have brought zebra mussels to a reservoir that supplies some of the Waterloo Region's drinking water.

Robert McCauley, a biology professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, found the mussels at the Laurel Creek Reservoir in Waterloo (on June 21). A woman who lives near the reservoir called him after hearing the mussels had been spotted.

She and her husband dumped the aquarium into the pond last week after their pet turtle appeared to be sick. They also dumped some driftwood and stones they had collected along the Lake Erie shoreline to decorate the aquarium. The decorations were covered with zebra mussels, which the couple had mistaken for ordinary snails and clams."

The above article shows how easy it is for zebra mussels to spread. It also shows that there are still lots of people out there who have not yet heard of zebra mussels. Did they get all the zebra mussels out of the reservoir or did any survive to spawn? Only time will tell.

Zebra Mussels Located in Owen Sound Harbour

Only July 8, 1991 Proctor and Redfern Ltd., while conducting a routing underwater inspection of the structures in Owen Sound harbour, discovered mature zebra mussels. The mussels were located mainly on the west wall of the harbour; however, smaller mussels were also located near the grain elevators.

"The arrival of zebra mussels to the Owen Sound area was inevitable," said David Reid, Fisheries Biologist in Owen Sound. "With the amount of boat traffic in and out of the harbour and the proliferation of the mussels in other areas of the Great Lakes it was only a matter of time," he added.

SAMPLING PROTOCOL

All MNR field stations are now operating under a standardized zebra mussel sampling protocol. The protocol was prepared by Lois Deacon (705-324-6121) from the Kawartha Lakes Fisheries Assessment Unit and Ellen Marsden (708-872-8676) from the Lake Michigan Biological Station, Zion, Illinois. It is a working draft

for this summer's field season and will be reviewed again in the Fall. Copies can be obtained by contacting Kari Smith at (416) 832-7273. Comments on the draft should be sent to the Zebra Mussel Coordination Office.

ZEBRA MUSSEL CONFERENCE 1992

Each of you will soon be receiving a CALL FOR PAPERS for the 1992 conference. The successful conference held last year by Ontario Hydro, has now been expanded to include biology as well as control and MNR and MOE as co-sponsors. Concurrent sessions will be held: one will deal entirely with zebra mussel control strategies and the other with biological and ecological research. All papers should be directed to the Zebra Mussel Coordination Office. This conference will be an excellent opportunity for MNR staff and Canadian Researchers to share their findings and get the latest on zebra mussel research. It will be held on February 19-21, 1992 in Toronto, Ontario.

It appears that two major conferences per year are shaping up. On the American side, the Second International Zebra Mussel Research Conference is planned for Rochester, New York on November 19-22, 1991. It is a follow-up to the Sea Grant Conference held in Columbus, Ohio last year.

ZEBRA MUSSEL COMMUNICATION PLAN

The 1991 Ontario Government Zebra Mussel Communication Plan is nearing final approval. It outlines the objectives and initiatives planned by the Zebra Mussel Coordination Office for this fiscal year to get the zebra mussel message out to the public, specific interest groups and our own staff. A copy will be sent to you in the near future. Any comments or ideas you may have on the plan should be sent to Kathy McPherson-Fox at (613) 258-8205.

BOATERS VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE

Protecting your Boat from Zebra Mussels is a new 13 minute video designed to advise boaters about zebra mussels and how to control them. It is available for a small fee from:

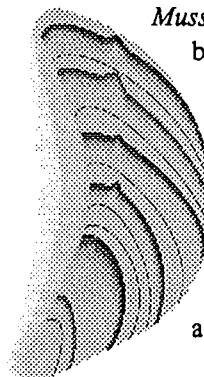
New York State Sea Grant,
Swetman Hall
State University of New
York College
Oswego, New York
13126-3599
(315) 341-2954

It takes a slightly different approach than we do in that it points to protective coatings as being a real help to boaters. Due to the unknown effectiveness of coatings and the environmental regulations surrounding them, we are not recommending them at this time.

Send your Zebra Mussel Morsel to:

Zebra Mussel Coordination
Office
Ministry of Natural
Resources
P.O. Box 5000
Maple, Ontario
L6A 1S9

Telephone:(416) 832-7275
FAX:(416) 832-7177



Mussel Morsels will be published regularly to keep you up-to-date on current happenings in zebra mussel management and research.