



Lake Winnebago and the Coast Guard

What does the Coast Guard have to do with Lake Winnebago?

Due to an historical navigational connection to Lake Michigan, Lake Winnebago is still designated as “federal waters” and subject to U. S. Coast Guard jurisdiction.

Does the USCG have a physical presence on Lake Winnebago?

No. USCG boats have to be trailered from Two Rivers or Sheboygan when needed here.

Do federal safety requirements for recreational boats apply on Lake Winnebago? Yes.

Does that mean that I have to carry USCG approved visual distress signals (flares) on my boat?

No. An exception in the rules applies to Lake Winnebago.

Are there noteworthy differences between USCG and WI DNR safety requirements?

Probably the best example of one is that USCG requires that a child under age 13 must wear an appropriate, USCG-approved life jacket when the boat is underway, unless below deck or within an enclosed cabin. WI DNR does not.

How can I find out all of the federal safety requirements?

Pamphlets can be ordered free in packs of 25 from: <http://www.boatingorders.com/freeproducts.html>

Does the USCG patrol Lake Winnebago?

They may from time to time. USCG personnel sometimes partner on the Sheriff’s Department boat. The USCG brings with it the right to board your boat without probable cause.

If I am boarded by the USCG, am I likely to be cited for safety deficiencies?

Not likely. Usually, you will just be required to remedy the deficiency.

What else should I know about the USCG and Lake Winnebago?

The USCG is implementing a new radio tower system to continuously monitor Lake Winnebago marine radio traffic on channel 16 for distress calls. The technology can pinpoint the exact location of the distressed boat to facilitate rescue efforts.



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Water Quality Tests in Summer 2012 show Winnebago to be “Eutrophic”

- Water quality tests are conducted every summer at a location identified as “Deep Hole South End” in Fond du Lac County, among other locations.
- Key tests are for clarity, chlorophyll (measure of algae), and phosphorus (key nutrient).
- Measurements are converted to a Trophic State Index (TSI).
- A TSI of “eutrophic” means the lake is enriched with nutrients, increasing the production of rooted aquatic plants and algae.
- The July-August 2012 average TSI for clarity (68), chlorophyll (67), and phosphorus (67.5) all fall within a eutrophic range (TSI 60 - 70) where blue-green algae become dominant and algal scums and extensive plant overgrowth problems are possible.
- For more information and data, go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/waterquality/Station.aspx?id=713244>
- Watch for 2013 updates to this information from your *Lake Winnebago Quality Improvement Association*.



Zebra Mussel Monitoring and Control

Zebra Mussel Bio-Control Tests Begin in Wisconsin

Federal scientists are bringing a 34-foot custom built mobile aquatic research laboratory trailer to the shores of Shawano Lake for a week to test a new natural treatment to control zebra mussels, an aggressive, invasive aquatic species that can harm lake ecosystems, hamper recreation, and clog water uptake pipes.

The treatment, called Zequanox[®], is a commercially available product consisting of the dead cells of a common soil bacterium. Zequanox[®] is registered by the EPA for the control of zebra and quagga mussels in defined discharge systems such as those found in power plants.

More information can be found at the following website:
http://dnr.wi.gov/news/BreakingNews_Lookup.aspx?id=2496

Combating Zebra Mussels

Zequanox[®] seen as way to reduce local populations

Zebra mussels have long been a problem for boaters and other users of Wisconsin lakes and streams. However, a solution to getting rid of them, or at the very least curbing their growth, could be on the horizon.

Shawano County is teaming up with the *New York State Museum and the United States Geological Survey (USGS)* to test a product called Zequanox[®] on mussels in Shawano Lake to see how effective it is in killing them, as well as its impact on native mussels and fish species.

Zequanox[®], with a natural soil bacterium, was initially created in the 1990s to reduce pollution in lakes and rivers. In the process of testing the product, it was discovered that pseudomonas fluorescens is toxic to zebra mussels.

More information can be found at: www.shawanoleader.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=27&ArticleID=32723

Safe Means to Control Zebra Mussels and Quagga Under Study

There is an immediate need for effective and safe tools to prevent the spread of planktonic larval of quagga and zebra mussels in and around the Great Lakes.

The *US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)* considers zebra mussels to be an immediate threat. There is no effective tool to control established zebra mussel infestations in native mussel beds.

Ecologists at the *New York State Museum Field Research Laboratory (NYSM)* discovered a strain of the common soil bacterium *Pseudomonas fluorescens* (Pf-CL145A) originally isolated from river sediments that had selective activity against zebra mussels.

The entire technical article entitled *Evaluating the Safety and Efficacy of Pseudomonas fluorescens Strain CL145A to Control Dreissenid Mussels* can be found at:
http://cida.usgs.gov/glri/projects/invasive_species/zm_control.html

Scientist Testing Method for Zebra Mussel Control

Over 90% zebra mussel kill obtained under experimental conditions. Dr. Dan Molloy Ph.D, a research biologist at the State University of New York, discovered a substance in the cell membrane of a bacteria which can kill zebra mussels. The magic is that in testing it is completely harmless to other things that live in water.

Dr. Molloy stressed this method is not available for controlling zebra mussels in entire lakes at this time and that the apparently simple methods such as boat inspection and education are as powerful as anything we currently have, and should continue.

Information on Dr. Molloy's experiment can be found at: www.minnesotawaters.org/group/whitefish/zebra-mussel-control-experiments