

White Lake - Zebra Mussels

October 27, 2015



For the first time, adult zebra mussels have been found in White Lake. Zebra mussel veligers (larvae) were previously detected in 2008 and again 2014, but no adults were found when the area was searched using snorkelling gear. The specimens shown in the photograph were collected from the submerged portion of a floating dock on the north shore of White Lake located opposite McLaughlin's Island. Inspection of other docks in the area also showed the presence of zebra mussels. Positive identification of the collected sample was done by the Invading Species Awareness Program of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

The chemistry of White Lake provides ideal conditions for the growth of zebra mussels. The water has a high pH, and contains adequate dissolved minerals, including calcium for shell formation.

At this time, we do not know the distribution of zebra mussels at different locations around the lake. Large clusters of zebra mussels were not found at the north shore locations. None of the boats moored at the docks which were sampled have ever been in any body of water other than White Lake.

It would be helpful if anyone still at their cottages or lakeside homes could please examine the underside (submerged) part of their docs for the presence of zebra mussels. In my case, I felt small isolated 'lumps' as I passed my hand through the algae clinging to the underside of my dock. These lumps turned out to be zebra mussels.

If anyone finds zebra mussels, I would be grateful to receive a photo and location of the finding. I will then collate this information and have it added to the Provincial database. I can be reached by email at WLPPmail@gmail.com

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