

HC COLA "Eyes on the Water" Survey 2017

By Dan Kittilson

Call for Action: Watch your email inbox for HC COLA "Eyes on the Water" Survey 2017.

Again this year, Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HC COLA) will implement our on-line survey to foster our aquatic invasive species (AIS) detection and monitoring actions. This year our survey will focus both on invasive animals like Zebra Mussels and invasive plants, such as Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Water Milfoil. We encourage you to join our on-line survey and help us evaluate our "eyes on the water" efforts.

In early September, AIS Citizen Watch volunteers, lake association presidents/ reps and AIS coordinators will be receiving COLA's survey because of their participation/relationship with the HC COLA's AIS Lake monitoring early detection program. You are reminded that if you do not have a special monitoring device (zebra mussel settlement sampler, etc.) on your lake shore, HC COLA's on-line survey can still provide an opportunity for you to inspect your shoreline, your lake shore equipment and search around your lake for AIS. The first "eyes on the water" survey you receive will be considered our early bird edition. This early edition will give lakeshore owners who will be closing their cabin for the season the opportunity to check your equipment and shoreline for AIS and report your findings on HC COLA's on-line survey. Since you will receive the survey link numerous times, permanent residents will want to keep your "eyes on the water" further into the fall season looking for AIS. Thus, you can keep checking your lakeshore for AIS and reply to the survey at a later date.

We further encourage lake association presidents and AIS coordinators to share the survey link with all lake association members and invite their participation in this very important study. The more frequently and more intense AIS monitoring occurs, the more likely a new AIS infestation will be detected. Therefore, to increase our effectiveness for early detection, it is essential for lake associations to expand their "eyes on the water" looking for AIS.

Lake association participation in our survey can also serve as an educational tool to help our lake users learn about AIS Lake Monitoring and understand the role that early detection of AIS can play in helping protect our lakes from the spread of aquatic invasive species.