

Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (HCCOLA) Newsletter: Winter 2024-25

1. **What we stand for:** Our mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational, and natural environmental values of our shorelands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats.
2. **Where are we with invasive species** - Hubbard County [AIS Type and Lakes on Map](#)
 - a. 6 lakes have confirmed zebra mussels (1 more this year)
 - b. 2 lakes with Eurasian milfoil
 - c. 16 lakes with Chinese Mystery snails; 10 with Banded Mystery Snails
 - d. 4 with curly leaf pondweed
 - e. 2 with starry stonewort
 - f. 9 with faucet snails on the [DNR Infested Waters List](#)
3. **Water Quality Status** - [Hubbard County Watershed Health Assessment Scored Lakes](#)
 - a. Of 91 measured lakes,
 - i. 78% are grade B or better (none are "A" level)
 - ii. 47% have Mercury contamination (43 of the 91 lakes)
 1. Check the [individual lake on DNR Lake Finder](#)
 - a. Some fish might be unhealthy to eat
 - iii. 3 lakes have nutrient contamination
 - b. RMB lab trend data - [you can look up your lake](#) Here is a [table of Hubbard County RMB data](#)
4. **What we are doing about it** - [HCCOLA accomplishments for 2024 and plans for 2025](#)
 - a. Coordination with local government and associations: [Boat inspections](#) - 2.53% with contaminants; 36.74% of boats coming from infested waters. (Remember: supplemental [watercraft inspection funding](#) is due to Hubbard County AIS Program before Jan 31, 2025)
 - b. Monthly educational presentations at hybrid HCCOLA mtg open to the public Mar - Oct 2025
 - c. Coordinate water quality testing
 - d. Publications and [collaboration with other organizations](#) and much more. [Stay up to date](#) here.
5. **Problems to watch out for**
 - a. Other Aquatic Invaders / problems
 - i. [Hydrilla & European Frog-Bit](#) are in Michigan - learn to identify for early detection
 - ii. [Salt/chlorine increase in lakes from road salt](#) Also learn from the [MPCA link](#)
 - iii. [Spiny water flea](#) Volunteer surveillance monitoring for spiny water fleas
 - iv. [Flowering rush](#)
6. **We need everyone on board**
 - a. [Join/form a lake association](#)
 - b. Talk to your family, friends, neighbors, visitors
 - c. Be meticulous - [clean, drain, dry your boat; docks required to dry 21 days](#) before move lakes.
 - d. Keep your shoreline as natural as possible; use a no-mow wide buffer zone on your lakeshore
 - e. Decontaminate your boat when moving between waterbodies - call ahead for an appointment at the [free Hubbard County decontamination station](#) (218) 616-1631
 - f. MAISRC (U of M AIS Research Center) showcase highlights- [reliability](#) of inspections not 100%; [hopefully e-DNA testing for zebra mussels will be more widely available in the near future](#)
7. **Wake boat restrictions** - Vermont and other states.
 - a. [31 localities in Wisconsin enacted wake boat restrictions](#)
 - b. [U of M follow up study on boat wake](#) out in 2025; MN Lakes & Rivers has [two webinars](#) on topic.
 - c. [Caribou Lake in Cook County put in place a restriction of 500' from shore and 20' water depth.](#)