



Hello members, families and friends,

**How can YOU help protect Big Fish Lake when taking out your dock, lift, and other water related equipment?**

Many shore owners will be bringing in their docks, lifts, rafts, and other water related equipment out of the lake for the winter. But, did you know that this act may create a BIG Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) risk for the lake? No, not from your equipment which has been in the water all summer, **but from the person taking out the equipment -- the service provider!** Just like boats traveling from lake to lake without adequately cleaning, draining, and drying can create a risk for the lake, so can a service provider when they travel from lake to lake. That service provider may have equipment such as ATV's, towing belts, waders, tubes, hip boots, etc. that can transfer AIS if not cleaned and treated properly. The service provider needs to decontaminate their ATV, clean, drain, dry or thermally decontaminate, just like a boat should be treated when it travels from lake to lake. ALL of their equipment that becomes wet must be cleaned of visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud. Any visible material should be scrubbed off with a stiff brush. Non-felt soled boots should be used instead of felt-soled footwear. Soaking of equipment inside and outside in very hot water, even using ½ cup of salt per gallon of water may be helpful in treating equipment. If feasible, freezing equipment for 72 hours will kill any remaining microscopic AIS. The best of all is a separate set of those items that are difficult to clean, so cross contamination between lakes is not possible. At the present time, the BFLA Board is working with a provider to possibly buy separate equipment for installing and/or removing equipment. This is a huge step in preventing AIS for coming into our lake especially since lake service providers can come from infested lakes such as Grand Lake, Lake Koronis or the Chain of Lakes.

**If you do have lake service providers coming from an infested lake, please request that they come to Big Fish Lake first, then go to the other infested lakes last! We all must do our part to prevent AIS!!!**

Also, did you know that all lake service providers must complete AIS training, learning how to identify and remove AIS, and obtain a DNR permit? The permit must be displayed in the lower driver's side

corner of their vehicle's windshield. Also, did you know if you plan to move a dock, lift or other water equipment from one lake or river to another, all aquatic plants and animals must be removed whether they are dead or alive. According to Minnesota law, the equipment must be free of AIS and dried for 21 days before it can be placed in another water body.

So if YOU use a service provider be sure they have a permit and have gone through AIS training, ask them what lake they were in last, how did they clean their equipment or do they have another set for Big Fish Lake? If you don't get the right answers, find someone else. Thank you for helping to protect our beautiful lake!

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## Important Northern Pike Slot Limit Review Meeting

On Wednesday, September 26, 2018, there will be an important meeting regarding the review of the Northern Pike Special Regulations Limit on Big Fish Lake by the DNR Fisheries Department. The meeting will be held at the Collegetown Township Hall from 6 - 8 PM.

The current Big Fish Lake slot limit was created in 2005 with a 10-year trial & review. From preliminary information that Allen Schmitz, BFLA Board member, has received from DNR, it sounds like the current slot limit is not working. Please attend this meeting and voice your opinion.

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### **Those "beautiful" purple loosestrife flowers are showing up around Big Watab Lake!**

Please take time to look for them along your shoreline, in the reeds, cattails, and grasses. If you do see them, dig up the plants and dispose of them in plastic bags and place in the garbage. In areas where plants are too numerous to dig up, cut off the purple flowers and cut the plant all the way to ground. Contact John Ronning at (719) 426-1472 or myself if you need help identifying and/or digging up plants.  
Thank you.



This DNR link has information about identification and management of loosestrife.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/purpleloosestrife/index.html>

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**Attention:**

There are several new members that now live on the lake and if you know someone is not getting this email newsletter, please let me know.

Thank you very much!

Thank you for your time and concern for our lake and have a beautiful fall!

Kit Ferber  
President  
320-249-4800

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