

# Zebra Mussel Policy for LAKE OCONEE

## What are Zebra Mussels?

Zebra Mussels are a small, destructive, invasive species that can infest lakes by hitching a ride on boats, trailers, pontoons, paddle boats, paddle boards, kayaks, water skis, four-wheelers and gear coming from infected lakes and rivers. They only grow to about 1 ½ inches and develop a distinctive zebra striped shell. One Zebra mussel can produce approximately 120,000 larvae a year and up to one million microscopic larvae during its life span.

## Why are they a problem?

Zebra mussels can cause tremendous environmental damage, hindering water recreation and threatening water supply. The shells are extremely sharp and make it impossible to walk on the beach or in the lake with bare feet. Zebra mussels have spread to some SD, KS and NE lakes and rivers. **They can and will damage your boat, especially your motor.**

## How are they transported?

You can't always see zebra mussels because their larvae are invisible to the naked eye. They can survive for days in water trapped in a boat, kayak, four-wheeler, etc. The only way to be sure you are not carrying zebra mussels from another body of water to our lake is to always clean, drain and dry your boat, paddle boat, kayak, four-wheeler, gear, etc. before re-entering Lake Oconee.

**CLEAN:** Inspect and clean anything that came in contact with water, including boats, trailers (be aware of mud and vegetation), equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.

**DRAIN:** Drain all water from the boat, including the motor, bilge, live wells, and bait buckets.

**DRY:** Dry the boat, trailer, equipment, etc. for at least five days before re-entering the lake. . (Drying is the key to prevention.)

**Working together we can keep our lake zebra mussel free and safe for future use. Please sign this document and return to me, Wayne Morfeld, lot #30. (402-910-0547 or wmorfeld@scotuscc.org)**

- I understand the devastating impact zebra mussels could have on our lake.
- I will not bring our boat onto Lake Oconee after having been in another lake until the boat has been thoroughly dried, drained and out of the foreign body of water for a least 5 DAYS.
- I understand that guests are not allowed to bring watercraft to our lake.
- I understand that any contractor (dock builder, etc.) must adhere to these same standards.
- I understand there is no known chemical or other treatment for an infestation.
- I understand that a zebra mussel infestation could dramatically impact the value of my home and the lake in general.
- I will do my best to make certain that we protect the lake from zebra mussels.

**Dock installation policy – It is the lot owner's responsibility to notify a member of the fish committee/association board exactly when an association approved dock installer will come to do the install. A member of the fish committee will verify that the dock installer's equipment is appropriately clean prior to entering Lake Oconee water.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Lot # \_\_\_\_\_

Best Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_