



## Expansion of Zebra Mussels into the Nelson River

Timeline for the expansion of Zebra Mussels into the Nelson River:

DATE	LOCATION
<b>September 2020</b>	adult Zebra Mussels found as far north as the Limestone Generating Station
<b>July 2020</b>	adult Zebra Mussels identified in Sipiwesk Lake, a lake which the Nelson River flows through
<b>September 2019</b>	a single adult Zebra Mussel found between Sea Falls and Sugar Falls near Norway House
<b>August 2019</b>	larval Zebra Mussels, called veligers, detected for the first time in Playgreen Lake and in the Nelson River, downstream of the Limestone Generating Station

A map, showing Manitoba water bodies that have been invaded by Zebra Mussels, can be found [here](#).

Since zebra mussels were first discovered in the south basin of Lake Winnipeg in 2013, it was expected that Zebra Mussels would move down the Nelson River naturally, following the flow of the river. As such, the Nelson River Control Zone was created and proclaimed in 2015, in the [Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation](#) under [The Water Protection Act](#). Its purpose was to control the spread of zebra mussels and spiny waterflea.

The Nelson River [Control Zone](#) covers the entire length of the Nelson River, from Lake Winnipeg to its entry into Hudson Bay, as well as all lakes, rivers, channels and other water bodies through which the Nelson River passes. This includes:

- Kiskitto Lake
- Kiskittogisu Lake
- Scatch Lake
- Goose Hunting Lake
- Cauchon Lake
- Prud'homme Lake
- Archibald Lake
- Bruneau Lake
- Bulger Lake
- Walker Lake
- Drunken Lake
- Hill Lake

**It also includes the portion of each tributary that flows into any of these water bodies, from the mouth, upstream to the first impassible barrier.**

In addition to the general provisions of the Aquatic Invasive Species Regulation (i.e., Clean, Drain, Dry), there are extra requirements when exiting a control zone. These requirements include:

- Disposal of bait used on a control zone water body **before** leaving the shore if it:
  - is live,
  - has been handled (i.e., hooked) or
  - has come into contact with surface water from the control zone

Commercially supplied dead bait that has **not come into contact with water** from the water body in an AIS Control Zone can be retained by anglers for future use.

- Decontamination of watercraft (e.g., canoes, paddle boards and fishing boats) and water-related equipment (e.g., ropes, anchors, waders and docks) **before** placed them into **another** water body.

As a reminder, set fines for [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) offences](#) are in effect year-round. The [open-water season](#) and [closed water \(winter\) season](#) checklists are helpful resources that outline the legal requirements for surface water users, when entering and exiting non-control zone and control zone water bodies.

You can find more information on AIS, including other control zones, legislation and regulations, and how to report an AIS sighting, at [Manitoba.ca/StopAIS](http://Manitoba.ca/StopAIS).