

Environment and Climate Change

Water Stewardship – AIS Unit

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September 12, 2025

**SUBJECT: Partial drawdown of St Malo Reservoir to explore opportunities to eradicate zebra mussels**

Dear property owner,

Last year, the Manitoba government advised about a detection of zebra mussels in St Malo Reservoir and our intention to begin suppression efforts in the fall of 2024. Unfortunately, the 2024 response plan had to be paused due to a high rate of water inflows and declining water temperatures.

Manitoba intends to resume the zebra mussel response plan by conducting a partial drawdown of St Malo Reservoir, with a tentative start date of **September 22, 2025.**

The reservoir will be drawn down over a two – three-week period toa target depth of 3 metres (~10 feet) below full supply, after which water levels will be held for 1 – 3 days for observation, before allowing the reservoir to recharge prior to freeze up.

Government staff will be on site will be on site during drawdown activities to observe bank stability, mitigate fish and wildlife stranding, and monitor for adult zebra mussel presence.

**Property owners adjacent to the reservoir are advised to secure or remove any docks or watercraft by September 22, 2025.**

During the drawdown, outflow from the St. Malo Dam will increase downstream water levels in the Rat River. Estimated outflow will remain within the banks of the Rat River.

Updates on activities will be provided as target water levels are achieved.

Questions about this response can be directed by email to AIS@gov.mb.ca or by phone to (204) 793-1154.

 Sincerely,

Joey Tonin

Aquatic Biologist