

## Zebra Mussels

ONEIDA COUNTY - Many people will soon begin taking their docks and boats out of Northwoods lakes for the season. That chore should give homeowners the opportunity to check for the spread of some invasive species.

One invasive species that experts want people to look out for is the zebra mussel.

"They really work at the food web and they really eat a lot of the zooplankton and the phytoplankton, and that's taking it away from our native fish," says Oneida County AIS Coordinator Michele Sadauskas.

Zebra mussels attach to hard surfaces, and they can quickly multiply.

"Zebra mussels are about a quarter inch to maybe about an inch big and have stripes on them," says Sadauskas.



They haven't been found in Oneida County yet, but there have been some close calls.

"A boat inspector on Pelican Lake on Friday afternoon checked a boat going into Pelican Lake, and he scraped off multiple Zebra mussels off that particular boat," says Sadauskas.

Some zebra mussels are so small you wouldn't be able to see them by just generally looking around, so experts suggest you get low and check thoroughly.

Zebra mussels have already made their way into some Northwoods lakes, including Lake Men-toga in Crandon.

"I know they do a good job trying to contain that zebra mussel population, but we work really hard to keep those zebra mussels out of nearby lakes," says Sadauskas.

If you find zebra mussels in Oneida County, contact Oneida County AIS. For more information, click on the link below.