

# Aquatic Invasive Species Update Washington & Waukesha Counties



**November 2020**

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[Washington County Website](#)

[Waukesha County Website](#)

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## Waterfowl Season 2020

Just because the summer season is winding down doesn't mean that AIS issues cease to be!

October 1-2nd was opening weekend for waterfowl hunters in the area and that means Sam was out doing waterfowl outreach! Outreach was done at:

Big/Little Muskego (Waukesha) as well as  
Smith Lake/Lake Twelve/Milwaukee River (Washington)

Sam reminded waterfowl hunters the importance of:

**INSPECT:** boats trailers and equipment  
(this includes decoys, blinds, and dogs!)

**REMOVE:** all attached aquatic plants and animals

**DRAIN:** all water from boats, vehicles, and equipment

**NEVER MOVE:** Seed heads from AIS to create duck blinds

Even though opening day was a stormy one there were still hunters out doing what they love and hearing the AIS message in the process!

## Calling ALL Lakes Associations!

If you have an interest in learning more about the Clean Boats, Clean Waters grant application or the program in general, please contact

Samantha Lammers at [Samantha.lammers@washcowisconsin.gov](mailto:Samantha.lammers@washcowisconsin.gov).

This summer 7 Lakes in Waukesha and 4 Lakes in Washington County received grants and had CBCW coverage on their landings throughout the summer.

It is a GREAT way to reach boaters and anglers on YOUR Lake!

You can also find more information here:

[dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/SurfaceWater/CBCW\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/documents/SurfaceWater/CBCW_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

**\*\*\*ONE WEEK LEFT!\*\*\***

**The deadline for 2021 CBCW applications is November 1st!**

However, the AIS teams in Washington and Waukesha are always happy to discuss any and ALL future CBCW applications and county-wide CBCW growth.

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## Battle of the Invasives: Asian Clam (Corbicula) vs. Fingernail Clam (Native)

The easiest way to differentiate between the native fingernail clam and the invasive corbicula is the ridging on the shell. Asian Clams have heavy ridging on their shells that are easier felt by running your finger/fingernail over the shell. Fingernail clams will be smooth to the touch. Asian Clams can be a little bit larger in size than the Fingernail Clams but size is not always an accurate way to identify the difference.

### Size Differential

Upper Photograph: Fingernail Clams (Native)

Lower Photo: Corbicula (Invasive)

\*Stock Photos\*





### **Ridging**

Upper Photo: Fingernail Clams (Native)

Lower Photo: Corbicula (Invasive) \*HEAVY RIDGING\*



### **Asian Clam: Fact Sheet (River Alliance of Wisconsin)**

[https://wisconsinrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/asian\\_clam.pdf](https://wisconsinrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/asian_clam.pdf)

### **How It Spreads**

The main vector for the spread of Asian clam is human movement and activities. It is believed that they first were brought to North America for food, and have since been introduced to new areas through bait bucket releases, ballast water transport, aquarium/water garden releases, as hitch-hikers with imported aquaculture species, and intentional introductions for food

### **Impacts to Rivers**

Due to their voracious filter feeding, Asian clams tend to out-compete both native mussels and juvenile fishes for food. Food competition coupled with competition for space has led to decreased abundances and diversity of native mussels and clams in waterbodies where Asian clams are introduced. Asian clams can have large economic impacts on industrial and power plants that intake water from rivers and lakes. Alive and dead clams clog the intake pipes and it is costly to remove them; an estimated one billion US dollars each year is spent removing clams from industrial and power plant pipes.

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*The Aquatic Invasive Species Program is a cooperative effort between Washington & Waukesha Counties, supported by grant funds from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a number of generous local lake groups working to control the spread of AIS. Thank you for your support!*

For more information:

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