

Mariposa Lake Zebra Mussel / Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Protocol

(August 14, 2021 Revision)

The impact of an infestation of Zebra Mussels or other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into Mariposa Lake can be catastrophic! Property values can be dramatically reduced due to an invasion of such species. It is in each lake members best interest to fully take ownership of this prevention protocol. Each lake member is responsible to help uphold the management and stewardship of this program!

To prevent the introduction of Zebra Mussels or all other Invasive Species into Mariposa Lake, all lake members, guest, vendors and contractors shall be required to adhere to the following protocol:

- 1.) Control Lake access with 24/7 locked boat ramp to prevent unauthorized entry. Lock combination availability will be limited only to Lake Mariposa's invasive species committee members.
- 2.) **No guest vessels of any kind are allowed on Lake Mariposa.**
- 3.) Vessels include but aren't limited to all boats (including canoes, kayaks, paddle boats, bass boats, Jon boats, etc.) Along with Jet Skis, boat docks, boat lifts, etc.
- 4.) Each vessel entering the lake must be inspected and approved by a Mariposa AIS Committee member prior to lake entry.
- 5.) Vessel inspection timeline: Initial inspection by a Mariposa AIS Committee member, then if approved, a "Mariposa AIS Seal" will be attached to the vessel. A 14-day dry out period will commence at that time. After the dry out period has been served, a Mariposa AIS Committee member will verify and allow the vessel to enter the lake. **The 14-day dry out period will also apply to brand new vessels.**
- 6.) Any vessel removed from the lake will be documented. Once the vessel is returned to the lake the vessel will be required to go back through the inspection process in item (5) above to re-enter the lake.
- 7.) An exception to item (6) above may be granted if the vessel is leaving the lake to be placed in storage or for repairs/maintenance, fueling, etc. In these situations, a Mariposa AIS Committee member must place a "Mariposa AIS Seal" on the vessel at the time the vessel is taken out of the lake. The seal must be placed on the vessel in a way to ensure that the vessel cannot be unloaded into another body of water without the seal being broken. Upon the return of the said vessel to the lake with the "Mariposa AIS Seal" still intact and after a Mariposa AIS Committee member approved inspection, said vessel will be allowed re-entry into the lake without having to serve the 14-day dry out period.
- 8.) **Contractors, Vendors and Lot Owners (hereafter called contractor);** Any contractor that does work in the lake or within 20 feet of the lake's edge must obtain a "Mariposa AIS Contractor Permit" prior to the start of said work. Contractor must apply for the permit (in some cases it may need to be submitted 20 days prior to the date of the work being done.) The "Mariposa AIS Contractor Permit" must be signed by a current Mariposa AIS Committee member and the signed permit must be available for visual inspection at all time while the contractor is performing work at the job site. Each contractor will be managed on a case by case basis. Unless other arrangements are made by a Mariposa AIS Committee member in writing, all contractors that have equipment, tools, etc. that could potentially enter the lake must conform to all Mariposa AIS Protocols. **(Contractors Protocol continued on the following page)**

Some examples of these contractor activities would include dredging, sea wall and rip rap installation, beach grading and grooming, installation of geo-thermal discharge lines, pumping water from the lake, along with boat/jet ski vendor work, boat dock & boat lift installation or any other contractor work, etc.

- 9.) **It is each lake member's responsibility** to make sure any item that has been contaminated by another water source that is being introduced into Mariposa Lake is Clean, Drained and Dried before such items are placed into the lake. Examples of these items would include; all towables, tubes, paddle boards, lily pads, inflatables, toys, fishing nets, fishing equipment, anchors, anchor ropes, boat trailers, beach grooming equipment such as four wheelers, drags, tractors, etc.
- 10.) **No live Aquatic fish baits are allowed in the lake.** Examples of these would include anything that lives in the water such as minnows, crawdad's, leaches, frogs, etc. Bait such as grasshoppers, nightcrawlers/worms, etc. that do not live in water are okay to use.
- 11.) Stocking of any fish into the lake by a lake member or their guest is NOT Allowed. Do NOT introduce any aquatic life from any other water source into Mariposa Lake such as fish, frogs, minnows, crawdads, leaches, etc.
- 12.) **As a lake member, it is your responsibility to inform all your family, guests, and contractors of these Mariposa AIS Protocols.**

Other recommended measures direct from the Nebraska Game and Parks

- A.) Remove all plants and animals from your boat, trailer, and any accessory equipment such as anchors, centerboards, trailer hitches, wheels, rollers, cables, axles, water toys, bait buckets, fishing equipment, etc. before leaving the water access area of any lake that you visit.
- B.) Drain Live wells, bilge water, and transom wells before leaving the boat ramp for home. Empty your bait bucket on land, never into the water. Never dip your bait or minnow bucket into one lake if it has water in it from another. Also, never dump live fish from one water body into another body of water. Visit neinvasives.com to Prevent, Promote, and Reduce the Impact of invasive species.

Remember to **CLEAN – DRAIN – DRY** all boats, trailers, toys, etc. before introducing them into our lake!

Please call any of the Invasive Committee Members listed in the Lake Association's Directory if you have any questions concerning Zebra Mussel / Aquatic Invasive Species.

Thank you,

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