

**IMPORTANT NEWS** from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

# E-Newsletter

## April 2021



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## **OTC COLA 2021 Lakes Monitoring Program Kick Off**

The distribution of the sample storage coolers, bottles and data sheets to sampler volunteers took place Thursday, April 22 at the Ottertail Community Center parking lot. Almost all of the coolers were picked up at the event. New forms were preprinted with much of the lake specific information already on the forms.

[OTC COLA Lakes Monitoring Program](#)

[RMB Laboratories Lakes Monitoring Information](#)

If you have questions contact:

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## MN Fishing Opener - May 15

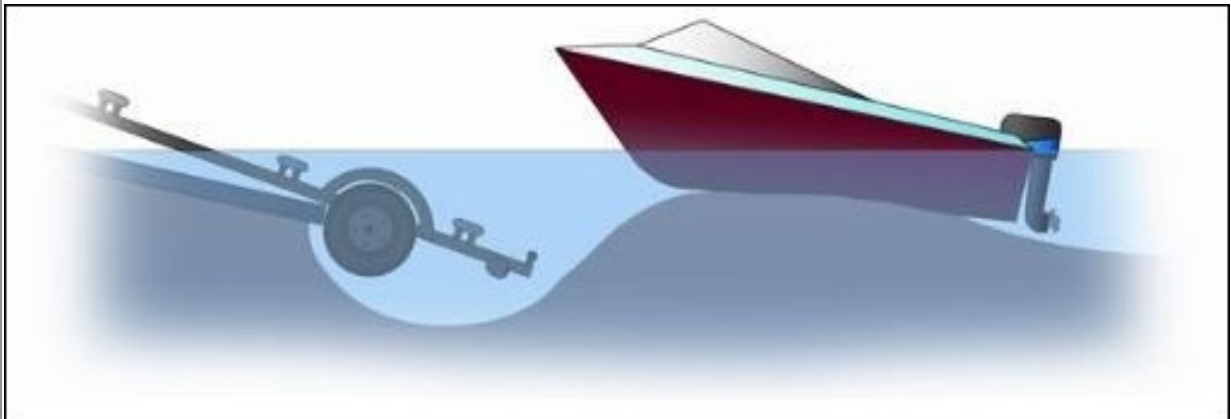
*Take Mom Fishing Weekend is the weekend before fishing opener*

Fishing seasons open for walleye, bass, trout in lakes, and northern pike on Saturday, May 15, with this year's date taking the prize for the latest possible opener under Minnesota statute.

The correct dates for this year's Take a Mom Fishing Weekend—when Minnesota-resident moms can fish without purchasing a license—are Saturday, May 8, to Sunday, May 9. That special weekend is defined in Minnesota statutes as the weekend that coincides with Mother's Day. Most years, under Minnesota law, the fishing opener and Take a Mom Fishing Weekend fall on the same weekend, but not this year.

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## Power Loading Causes Damage To Launch Ramps

"Power loading", can cause damage to launch ramps that may not be visible from the surface of the water. "Power loading" is a term used to describe using the motor to load and unload the boat onto and off the trailer. Many of the state's 3,000 public launch ramps were not designed to sustain the forces generated by today's larger and more powerful boats or the practice of power loading. Propeller wash creates a significant force that can erode the lakebed and create a large hole at the end of the ramp.

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## St. Louis County Added To Burning Restrictions List Otter Tail County Remains On the Burning Restrictions List

The risk of wildfire has moved into the northeast part of the state, so the

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has added St. Louis County to the burn restriction list effective immediately.

The state will not issue burning permits for brush or yard waste in St. Louis County until the restrictions are lifted. Restrictions remain in place for:

Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Carlton, Cass, Chisago, Clay, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Douglas, Grant, Hennepin, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Kanabec, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Norman, **Otter Tail**, Pennington, Pine, Polk, Pope, Ramsey, Red Lake, Roseau, Sherburne, Stearns, Stevens, Todd, Traverse, Wadena, Washington, Wilkin and Wright counties.

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## **OTC AIS Task Force Update**

Planning continues for the Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener scheduled for Saturday May 15th.

Keep an eye out for our bait awareness bags when buying live bait at your local bait shop.

Moss Balls are a type of algae used as a decorative accent in aquariums. Moss balls embedded with Zebra Mussels were found on store shelves in Fargo, ND.

[MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew](#), AIS Specialist

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## **OTC Public Hearing On Shoreland Ordinance Revisions**

Otter Tail County is proposing revisions to the Shoreland Management Ordinance.

The proposed ordinance revisions will be considered at a meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners at the Bigwood Event Center, located at 925 Western Avenue, Fergus Falls on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

[OTC Shoreland Ordinance Revision video 1](#)

[OTC Shoreland Ordinance Revision video 2](#)

[MORE](#)

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## **Dock And Lift Registration Required In Otter Tail County**

Otter Tail County's Dock and Riparian Use Ordinance requires docks and lifts to be registered with the county when being moved from one body of water to

another. Minnesota law requires dock and lifts to be dried for 21 days before moving from one body of water to another.

Dock and lift owners can register their equipment by calling 218-998-8113 or by registering it online at [onegov.co.ottertail.mn.us/](http://onegov.co.ottertail.mn.us/)

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## **Action Alert**

### **Support The Stop Starry Program**

Starry stonewort was first discovered in Minnesota near a boat access on Lake Koronis in Stearns County. the size of the outbreak was almost 300 acres.

The next summer starry stonewort covered thousands of acres of Lake Koronis. From Koronis it spread. Today sixteen lakes (29 public accesses) are now infested. Each is a vector of spread. Starry stonewort is difficult and expensive to manage, prefers high quality waters, and significantly impacts fishing, boating, and swimming.

MLR submitted a grant to the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, ENRTF (lottery proceeds) to contain starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) in those 16 lakes (29 accesses) using waterless boat cleaning stations, civic organizing, and social messaging enhancements. The commission included this project as part of their overall package recommendations to the legislature.

The funding for this program is being carried in the 2021 ENRTF appropriations bills, HF 151 and SF 690. Contact your legislators today to encourage them to support this funding package so that we can get protection for all of MN's lakes this summer.

[MORE](#)

[Jeff Forester](#) Executive Director, MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates  
952-854-1317

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## **Support Minnesota Lakes And Rivers Advocates**

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, an organization of individual lake lovers and lake associations, has had remarkable success for lakes and lake

home and cabin owners, lowering property tax rates from 2.25% to 1%, protecting lakeshore for inclusion in Conservation Easement property tax deductions, securing \$10 million Annual County AIS Prevention Aid. All of these represent our values, time spent with family and friends on a healthy lake. I know you share those values.

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[Jeff Forester](#) Executive Director, MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates  
952-854-1317

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Erik Osberg OTC Rural Rebound Initiative Coordinator

**OTC To Host MN Governor's Fishing Opener**

When anglers across Minnesota drop their lines on Saturday, May 15, Otter Tail County is committed to hosting the 2021 [Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener](#) in a reimagined way from the previous 70 plus years. By design, the event will be safely shaped to proceed within the guidelines of the Stay Safe MN initiative during the global pandemic.

Otter Tail County is planning to host this year's opener celebration May 13-15, 2021. One of this year's highlights includes a friendly virtual fishing derby on any body of water throughout Otter Tail County. With 1048 lakes, the county has a rich diversity of fishing opportunities [Otter Tail Lakes Country](#). Lund Boats donated a new Lund 1875 Impact XS with a 150 horsepower Mercury motor, which will be raffled on May 8. Raffle tickets are at multiple locations, see [ottertaillakescountry.com](http://ottertaillakescountry.com) for details.

[OTC GFO News Release](#)

[OTC GFO Summary Sheet](#)

[Otter Tail County Youtube Video](#)

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## **GFO Call For Volunteers**

We're looking for hosts who love the Otter Tail lakes area and are willing to share their time with guests at the Governor's Fishing Opener by taking them out on the water. You don't need to be a professional angler, you just need to be a welcoming host. There will be a friendly competition during the event, however, our main objective is for the guests to have a good time. Plan to have rods, bait and tackle for guests. All boating regulations and best safety practices apply.

[Register](#)

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## **Lund Boat Raffle**

Otter Tail Lakes Country Association is selling raffle tickets to win a Lund 1875 Impact XS - 18' 10" boat, a \$50,000 prize package. The drawing will be held Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 5:00 pm at Thumper Pond Resort. You do not need to be present to win.

[\*\*MORE\*\*](#)

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## **Composting 101**

The first week in May is International Compost Awareness Week! Composting returns valuable nutrients to the soil, reduces your waste, and keeps food waste out of the landfill. Join us over lunch to learn the basics of composting, from choosing or building a bin, choosing a location, knowing what to compost, turning or mixing your compost, troubleshooting, and using your finished compost. Composting is pretty simple, and this event will get you started, or help you resolve issues if you already compost. Additional questions will be answered live!

Start Date and Time: May 5, 2021 12:00 pm

End Date and Time: May 5, 2021 12:45 pm

Location: Online

Register in advance for this meeting:

[\*\*Zoom Registration\*\*](#)

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## Get The Lead Out

### What's the problem with Lead?

Did you know that the vast majority of fishing tackle currently available on the market is made out of lead? Lead is a toxic metal that is lethal in small amounts to common loons and other wildlife, including trumpeter swans and bald eagles. Across the United States, lead poisoning is a leading cause of death for loons. An estimated 25% of loons die from lead poisoning, primarily from swallowing lead jigs and sinkers. Loons consume fishing tackle in several ways:

[MORE](#)

[Fact Sheet](#)



[AIS](#) \* [Water Quality](#) \* [Administration](#) \* [Regulation](#)

### Featured Posts - April 2021

- [OTC Shoreland / Septic Ordinance Results](#)
- [Integrated Communications Solutions Scenarios](#)
- [COLA / Lake Association Newsletters](#)

[www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org)

### OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [April 12, 2021 Draft](#)

### OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [February 23, 2021](#)

- [March 9, 2021](#)
  - [March 23, 2021](#)
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## **Instant Access Links**

- [Newsletter Article Index](#) - Visually scan article titles from all OTC COLA E-Newsletters from 2018.
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2020 samples\)](#) (includes 2020 samples) - Individual reports for 64 OTC COLA Lakes
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2019 samples\)](#) (includes 2019 samples) - Includes available data for 102 OTC non-COLA Lakes
- [Lake Property Owner Directories \(2018\)](#) - Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [OTC COLA Brochure](#) - View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
- **We want to hear from you!** - Go [HERE](#) to give OTC COLA your comments and suggestions

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